

ESG Newsletter

April 2026

Your Knowledge Digest

The energy transition: Ten physical realities to tackle | McKinsey 🖱️

Why risk in banking now demands a broader lens | BCG 🖱️

News | Regional

Bursa Kuwait issues updated version of its ESG Disclosure Guide for listed companies

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Bursa Kuwait released an updated 2026 ESG Reporting Guide to align listed companies' disclosures with international standards (ISSB, GRI) and new CMA requirements, providing guidance on areas like emissions, materiality, and climate analysis to improve transparency, investor confidence, and support Kuwait Vision 2035.



Egypt: CBE catalyses banking sector's shift toward sustainable finance

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Egypt's Central Bank highlighted climate change as a financial issue and reinforced its push for sustainable finance through regulations and partnerships with the IFC, including new financing and advisory programs to expand green lending and support the transition to a low-carbon economy.



Saudi Arabia spearheading regional green building sector growth

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Saudi Arabia is advancing as a regional leader in green buildings, expanding certified sustainable projects that collectively reduce CO₂ emissions. The sector is becoming more institutionalized, supported by measurable standards that align with Vision 2030 sustainability goals.



Beyond the binary: How a National Oil Company is navigating the energy transition

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Sharjah National Oil Corporation (SNOC) is adopting a systems-based approach to sustainability by balancing the energy trilemma while aligning with the UAE's net-zero goals, integrating lower-carbon solutions, renewables, and efficiency measures to reduce emissions and support the country's broader energy transition.



News | International

EU Commission unveils Industrial Accelerator Act with new made-in-EU requirements for cleantech procurement

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The EU's Industrial Accelerator Act aims to strengthen local clean manufacturing with "made-in-EU" and low-carbon rules, speed up project approvals, and reduce reliance on foreign supply chains, while boosting economic growth and cutting emissions.



EU Platform on Sustainable Finance warns ESRS simplification risks placing EU below global sustainability reporting baseline

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The EU's sustainability finance platform supports ESRS revisions but warns they may weaken global alignment and recommends stronger consistency with the EU Taxonomy and safeguards against greenwashing.



Korea plans mandatory sustainability reporting beginning in 2028

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South Korea's Financial Services Commission proposed a roadmap for mandatory sustainability disclosures starting in 2028 for large KOSPI-listed firms, aligned with ISSB standards and initially focused on climate reporting.



Singapore sets climate risk management expectations for banks, investors, insurers

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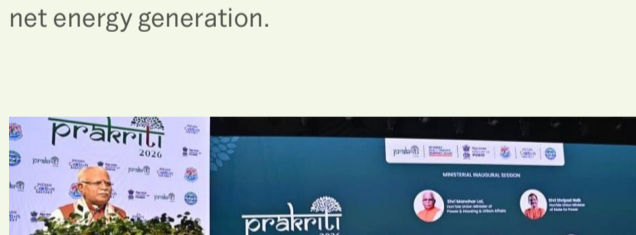
Singapore's Monetary Authority issued guidelines requiring banks, insurers, and asset managers to integrate climate risks into governance, strategy, and risk management, and to engage rather than divest from high-risk clients.



UK unveils \$3.3 billion Fusion Strategy

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The UK launched a Fusion Strategy backed by £2.5 billion to develop a domestic fusion energy industry and build a prototype plant by 2040. The plan, aligned with its industrial strategy, aims to position the UK as a leader in commercial fusion, with major investment directed toward the STEP program to demonstrate net energy generation.



India approves cautious 2035 climate, clean energy goals

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India announced new interim climate targets to reduce emissions intensity by 47% and reach 60% non-fossil power capacity by 2035, aligning with its net-zero goal by 2070. Critics say the targets lack ambition since they rely on intensity metrics rather than setting stricter absolute reductions.



IFRS Foundation proposes updates to agriculture, power sustainability reporting standards

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The ISSB released exposure drafts proposing updates to SASB sector standards to better align them with ISSB requirements, and enhance disclosure consistency. The revisions target sectors like agriculture and energy, adding and refining topics such as supply chain management and environmental impacts.

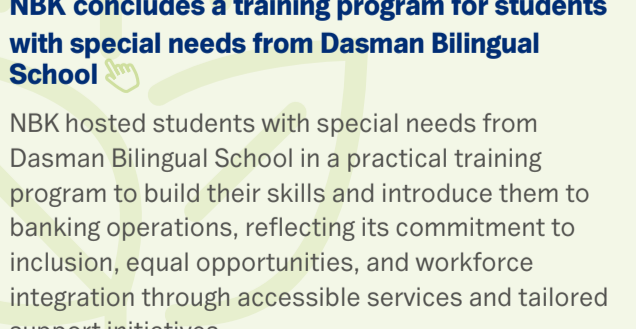


NBK ESG Highlights of the Month

NBK Egypt launches its first Green Corporate Facility

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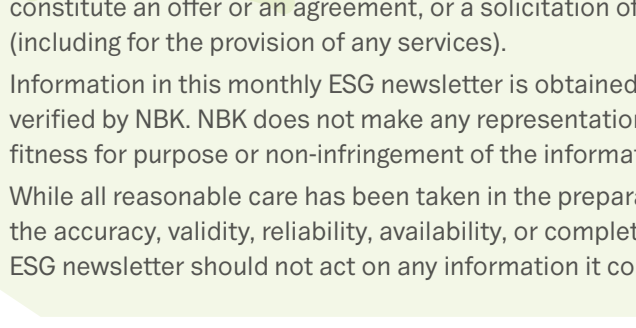
NBK Egypt launched green financing for corporates across sectors such as renewable energy, green buildings, and sustainable infrastructure, offering loans of up to 80% of project costs with repayment terms of 5-7 years and grace periods up to 2 years. The program features flexible disbursement options and competitive interest rates.



NBK concludes a training program for students with special needs from Dasman Bilingual School

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NBK hosted students with special needs from Dasman Bilingual School in a practical training program to build their skills and introduce them to banking operations, reflecting its commitment to inclusion, equal opportunities, and workforce integration through accessible services and tailored support initiatives.



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