

July 2025

Materials & Packaging

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[Nestlé and IBM Harness AI to Develop Sustainable Packaging](#)

Nestlé has partnered with IBM to develop a generative AI tool that helps discover innovative, high-barrier packaging materials. Nestlé aims to identify new packaging solutions that are functional, safe, cost-effective, and sustainable. This partnership is part of Nestlé's broader push to use AI and deep tech in innovation.



[AI Program to Cut Energy Costs and Ease Grid Load](#)

Constellation and GridBeyond are collaborating to use an AI-powered demand response program in the PJM region. It helps businesses reduce energy use during peak hours, cutting costs and easing grid pressure. The program improves grid flexibility, lowers overall energy costs, and reduces the need for building new power generation facilities.



[Turning Refinery Waste into Battery Material](#)

VFlowTech has partnered with IIT Delhi's FITT to recover high-purity vanadium from refinery waste (petcoke cinder), to build India's first circular vanadium ecosystem. The project aims clean energy goals by converting waste into battery-grade materials for long-duration storage, boosting domestic supply chains and promoting a 'Made-in-India' energy future.

Regulation



[Lagos Enforces Ban on Single-Use Plastics to Tackle Pollution](#)

Lagos State has begun strict enforcement of its ban on single-use plastics below 40 microns, effective July 1, 2025. The ban targets items like Styrofoam food packs, plastic straws, lightweight bags, cups, and cutlery, which contribute significantly to pollution. The policy follows a six-month grace period and aims to promote sustainability.



[EU Commission Adopts Sustainability Reporting Standard](#)

European Commission adopted Voluntary Standard for SMEs (VSME), a new sustainability reporting standard aimed at enabling micro-, small- and mid-sized companies to report on ESG issues in a simplified and consistent way and to respond to requests for sustainability information from financial institutions and large companies.



[Taiwan Mandates Plastic Codes for Better Recycling](#)

Taiwan's EPA revised its labeling rules on July 1, mandating plastic material identification codes on liners and blister packs to improve recycling transparency. Importers and manufacturers (except medical related packaging) must comply by Sep 30, 2027 and detailed labeling is required for imported items with multiple plastic components.

Finance



[EIB Funds PulPac to Tackle Plastic Waste with Fiber-Based Packaging](#)

The European Investment Bank is lending €20 Mn to Swedish firm PulPac to advance its eco-friendly Dry Molded Fiber packaging technology. This funding supports PulPac's global scale-up and R&D, promoting alternatives to single-use plastics. The initiative aligns with the EU's green goals and InvestEU's mission to foster sustainable innovation in the region.



[Australia Expands CIS to Boost Renewable Energy Infrastructure](#)

Australia's Capacity Investment Scheme supports renewable energy and clean dispatchable capacity by providing revenue certainty to reduce investment risk. Aiming for 40 GW of new capacity by 2030, it accelerates the transition to 82% renewable electricity, creates jobs, lowers emissions and energy costs, and benefits local communities.



[€224 Mn to Build Five Advanced Waste Recovery Plants in Spain](#)

Greene secured €224 Mn from EIB and Santander to build five waste recovery plants in Spain, using advanced pyrolysis to treat 200,000+ tones of non-recyclable waste annually. The project supports the circular economy, reduces landfill use and CO₂ emissions, and is expected to create 300+ jobs across five regions by 2029.

Benori: Sustain Monitor

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[Fedrigoni to Showcase Waterproof Self-adhesive Label at Labelexpo](#)

Tintoretto Waterproof is a new self-adhesive label material for the Wine & Spirits industry that resists humidity and ice without wrinkling. It keeps the natural look and feel of paper, allows matching labels and boxes, and includes wash-off options for easy recycling—offering both high visual appeal and improved sustainability.



[IonQ Uses Quantum Computing to Tackle Power Grid Optimization](#)

IonQ, in partnership with ORNL and the U.S. Department of Energy, used its 36-qubit quantum-classical system to optimize power plant scheduling. This innovation aims to solve the complex Unit Commitment problem, improves grid efficiency, and shows quantum computing's potential to solve real-world energy and industrial optimization challenges at scale.



[Circular Economy Projects to Boost Sustainability](#)

Oman implemented a circular economy program that includes waste-to-energy infrastructure project plant in Barka and a hazardous waste treatment facility in Suhar. Supported by the National Local Content Policy, the program encourages SME participation and includes biogas and water treatment initiatives to enhance sustainability.

Regulation



[EU to Ban Single-Use Plastic Sachets and Nets by 2030](#)

The EU will ban single-use plastic items such as ketchup sachets, plastic nets on fruit and vegetables under 1.5kg, and unnecessary trays and packaging by January 2030. The goal is to reduce plastic waste and promote reusable alternatives like refill stations, compostable packaging, and washable containers for condiments.



[Australia Launches Battery Rebate Program to Boost Storage Practice](#)

From July 1, 2025, Australian households and small businesses can save about 30% on the upfront cost of small home battery systems through the new Cheaper Home Batteries Program. The discount depends on the battery's size and will slowly reduce until 2030. This is part of a \$2.3 Bn government plan to help people use battery storage and reduce energy costs.



[EU Sets New Recycling Rules to Boost Battery Material Recovery](#)

The European commission has introduced new rules effective July 24, 2025, to improve recycling efficiency and material recovery from waste batteries. The measures set clear guidelines for recyclers, target critical materials like lithium and cobalt, and support a circular economy. Ambitious recycling and recovery targets are set for 2025, 2027, and 2030.

Finance



[Mars Commits \\$250 Mn to Achieve Net Zero target by 2050](#)

Mars has launched a \$250 Mn Sustainability Investment Fund to accelerate its journey to net zero by 2050. The fund supports innovations in agriculture, ingredients, and packaging—key areas of its emissions footprint. With 16% emission cuts since 2015, Mars aims to halve emissions by 2030 and integrate sustainability across operations.



[Centralines and Lodestone Partner For Solar Energy Project](#)

Centralines has partnered with Lodestone Energy to develop a solar farm in Ongaonga, Central Hawke's Bay. Backed by \$8 Mn in government funding, the project will generate 52 GWh annually, powering 9,000 connections. It aims to enhance local energy resilience, boost competition, create jobs, and advance regional sustainability goals.



[PFC Funds for Delhi's Largest Waste-to-Energy Plant](#)

Power Finance Corporation has lent INR 2.9 Bn to Ramky Group's 24 MW Waste-to-Energy plant in Delhi's Bawana, processing 20% of the city's waste. The plant, part of a 2,000 TPD solid waste system, generates power and compost, supporting cleaner waste disposal under India's Swachh Bharat mission.