

CSR TODAY

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Need to address climate change



Rajesh Tiwari
Publisher
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India has already suffered the hottest March in 122 years of weather data, and parts of the country are seeing wheat yields drop 10-35% in part due to the unseasonal heat - as they try to make up the shortfall caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

A deadly heatwave is building across India and Pakistan - home to around one in five people on Earth - and analysis by climate scientists has directly connected the heatwave with climate change.

Temperatures are forecast to rise to 50°C in Jacobabad, Pakistan, approaching the temperature record for the city - one of the hottest places on the planet. India's capital, New Delhi, could reach 44-45°C - approaching its record April temperature - while some parts of northern India could reach 46°C. Heatwave warnings have been issued, with public health experts warning that extreme heat so early in the year is particularly dangerous.

New analysis by Dr Mariam Zachariah and Dr Friederike Otto, Imperial College London, found that the heat that hit India earlier this month is already much more common as a result of higher global temperatures caused by human activities:

Dr Mariam Zachariah, Research Associate at the Grantham Institute, Imperial College London, said, "The recent high temperatures in India were made more likely by climate change. Before human activities increased global temperatures, we would have seen the heat that hit India earlier this month around once in 50 years. But now it is a much more common event - we can expect such high temperatures about once in every four years. And until net emissions are halted, it will continue to become even more common."

Dr Friederike Otto, Senior Lecturer in Climate Science at the Grantham Institute, Imperial College London, said, "India's current heatwave has been made hotter by climate change that is the result of human activities like burning coal and other fossil fuels. This is now the case for every heatwave, everywhere in the world. Until net greenhouse gas emissions end, heatwaves in India and elsewhere will continue to become hotter and more dangerous."

Dr Otto leads the World Weather Attribution group and was named as one of TIME magazine's most influential people of 2021.

The forecast temperatures are similar to those seen in the deadly heatwaves that hit India and Pakistan in May/June 2015, which killed at least 4,500 people. In the deadly June 2015 heatwave, New Delhi airport reached 44.6°C, while the hottest temperatures in India were seen in Jharsuguda, Odisha at 49.4°C. In Pakistan, Karachi saw temperatures of 45°C, while other cities in the Balochistan and Sindh provinces reached 49°C.

India has already suffered the hottest March in 122 years of weather data, and parts of the country are seeing wheat yields drop 10-35% in part due to the unseasonal heat - as they try to make up the shortfall caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Some experts in India are also stressing the need for actions to help people survive the climate change-driven extreme heat:

Dr Abhijant Tiwari, Assistant Professor & Programme Manager, Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management, said: "While taking mitigation measures is a must to limit future warming, the extreme, frequent, and long-lasting spells of heat waves are no more a future risk. It is already here and is unavoidable.

"Our heat action plans must ensure adaptation measures like public cooling areas, ensuring uninterrupted electricity, access to safe drinking water, and changing the work hours of labourers for the most vulnerable ones at the bottom of the pyramid, especially during extreme heat days."

Dr Dileep Mavalankar, Director, Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG) said: "The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is releasing forecast advisories for up to the next five days for 1000 cities in India. Ahmedabad is on an orange alert on all the days with temperatures ranging between 43-44°C and this may increase further. ☐"

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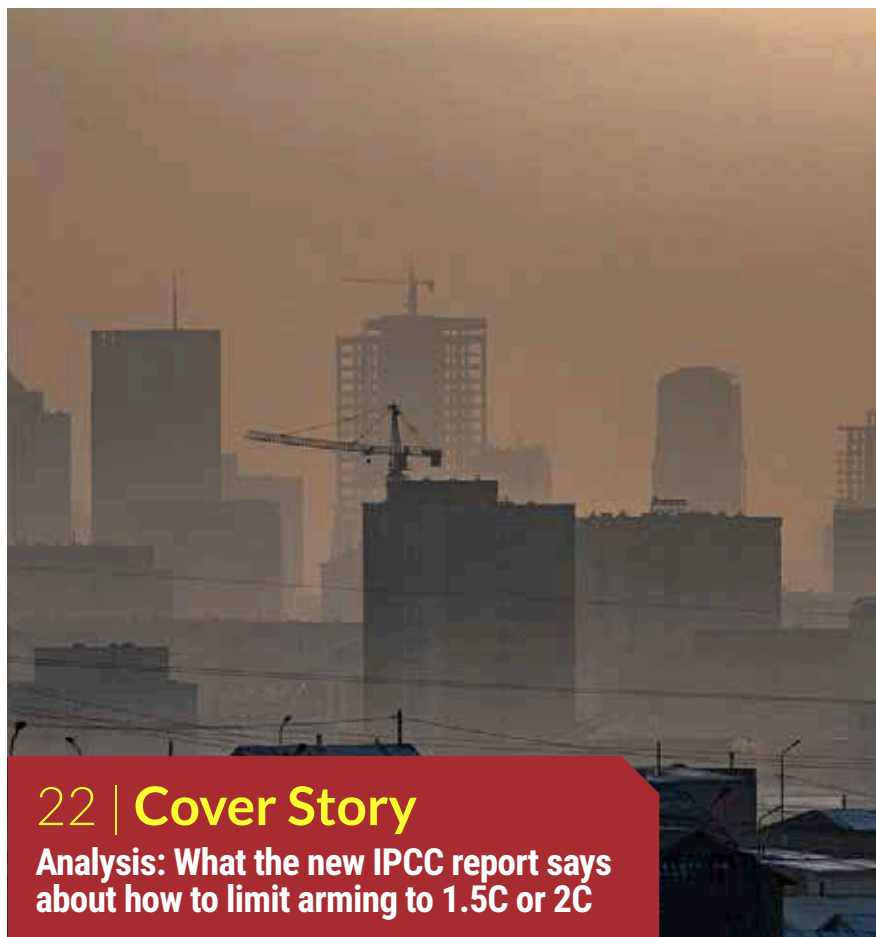
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Aurobindo Pharma signs MoU with Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF)

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF), the philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) to set up a centralised kitchen at SEZ area in Perumallapuram, Kakinada in AP. The kitchen will have a capacity of producing 5,000 breakfasts per day, with capacity to expand further in future.

U Kothapalli and Thondangi mandals near Kakinada consist of 38 villages with 40 government schools. There is a need for supporting these schools by providing nutritious breakfast prepared in hygienic conditions, for the students of these schools. Recognising the need, Sri K Nithyanada Reddy, Director of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and Managing Director & Vice Chairman, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, this Thursday signed and exchanged the MoU with Sri Kaunteya Dasa, CEO, HKMCF. The project, with an outlay of INR 9.63 crores will cover the cost of construction of the kitchen, along with the required infrastructure/equipment and operational costs of the kitchen for a period of 4 years from now. The kitchen which is being constructed will have a built-up area of 5,500 sq. ft. and will be situated on 2 acres of SEZ land in Perumallapuram village. It will provide hot, nutritious breakfast in all 40 government schools



within a radius of 25-30 km through dedicated and modern food transportation vehicles benefitting around 6,300 children.

Speaking on the signing of the MoU, Sri K Nithyanada Reddy, Director, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and Managing Director & Vice Chairman, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, said, “We are extremely honoured to be signing this MoU with Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF). Aurobindo Pharma Foundation had previously collaborated with HKMCF to construct 3 centralised kitchens in Narsingi, Mahabubnagar in Telangana and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh which are running successfully and have produced around 9.50 crore meals till date. This new kitchen project will encourage parents to send their children to school without worrying

about their children being starved. We consider it a privilege to support these schools and to provide good, hygienic and nutritious food that can help improve the health of these rural children. Aurobindo Pharma Foundation will conduct baseline and impact assess-

ment studies for this project, which will be operationalized from the next academic year.”

This kitchen will be equipped to run solely on solar energy, the first-of-its-kind out of many kitchens previously built by HKMCF in India. This further reflects the commitment of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation towards environmental sustainability. With sophisticated automated equipment such as idly batter dispenser, dough kneader, sambar cauldron – double-jacketed (1,200 ltrs) with auto dispensing set-up, vessels sterilization stand, etc., the kitchen will be maintained with the highest quality, hygiene and speed while preparing the meals to ensure their nutritional value. By maintaining a high standard of nutrition and hygiene, this kitchen will ensure the health of these students, thereby, reducing the rate of dropouts in schools.

CSR INDIA UNITED

Cosmo Foundation distributed electric water kettles and served ready-to-eat food to patients in New Delhi

On World Health Day, Cosmo Foundation, the philanthropic wing of Cosmo Films Ltd., distributed water kettles to 600 inpatients and served ready to eat meals to 2,000 in and out patients at National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi. The event was organized with the support of ISKCON, New Delhi.

World Health Day is an international day marked on 7th April to raise awareness about health and promote healthy lifestyle for physical and mental well-being. An initiative by the World Health Organization (WHO), this year WHO will focus global attention on urgent



actions needed to keep humans and the planet healthy.

Talking about the event, Ms. Yamini Jaipuria, Managing Trustee, Cosmo Foundation said, “At Cosmo Films, we strive to bring a healthy change in the society, and are

committed to drive initiatives intended for sustainable and responsible growth of the nation. On world health day, our efforts are focussed towards becoming more efficient and strengthening access to nutritious meal for people in need.”

Cosmo Foundation also planned overall health and menstrual hygiene awareness, dental check-ups and eye check-up in rural primary and secondary schools of Vadodara and Aurangabad in collaboration with Govt. Primary Health Centres, Gram Panchayats, Trust hospitals and Young Indians, CII. A seminar on wellness and healing was also organised to echo the importance of good health in life. Awareness and registration of cancer patients to get benefits for the free treatment under PMNRF scheme of Govt India will be done today in villages of Aurangabad by local Primary health centre with the facilitation of Cosmo Foundation. 1000 students, teachers, community members will be benefitted across five villages of Karjan and Aurangabad. “Through these initiatives, we also want reiterate the importance of overall health and wellness, especially amongst the students as they are our foundation of healthy tomorrow.” added Ms. Jaipuria.

A spokesperson from ISKCON Foundation, Delhi said, “We are happy to come forward in support of Cosmo Foundation, a brand that is constantly working towards creating a sustainable and healthy tomorrow. Such initiatives pivot narrative of mutual aim of helping people in need and creating a healthier difference in their lives.”

Cosmo Foundation is devoted to transforming the lives of people via its various efforts across education, health, and environmental initiatives. Through the various programs at Cosmo Foundation, the philanthropic wing has been able to benefit 3.5 lac+ people and educate over 40,000+ children.



ANALYSIS: WHAT THE NEW IPCC REPORT SAYS ABOUT HOW TO LIMIT WARMING TO 1.5C OR 2C

There are a range of ways to limit warming in line with global climate goals, according to the latest report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), writes **Zeke Hausfather**, Carbon Brief

Buildings in Ulaanbaatar obscured by smog. Ulaanbaatar is one of the most polluted cities in the world.
Image: Asian Development Bank, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Flickr

The third part of the IPCC's 6th assessment report, known as Working Group III (WG3), provides a detailed view of possible futures.

For example, it says that current policies put the world on track for a central estimate of around or a bit below 3C warming by 2100, though climate system uncertainties mean that warming of as low as 2.3C or above 4C cannot be fully ruled out.

If countries meet their current nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for 2030 under the Paris Agreement it would shave a few tenths of a degree off future warming – but a large gap remains between 2030 commitments and the magnitude of emissions reductions needed to put the world on track for below 2C or 1.5C warming by 2100.

Stabilising global average temperature will require reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to net-zero. Scenarios limiting the world to below 2C generally reach net-zero CO₂ in the “early 2070s”, while those limiting warming to 1.5C reach net-zero in the “early 2050s”. If the world reaches net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions then global temperatures will fall.

WG3 explores a wide range of energy system and emissions pathways to limit warming to 1.5C or below 2C, including worlds with large amounts of net-negative emissions and carbon

dioxide removal (CDR), worlds where fossil fuels are eliminated rapidly in favour of renewable energy, and worlds where global energy demand is sharply reduced.

Nearly all scenarios considered within WG3 that limit warming below 2C rely on some degree of CDR to accelerate the pace of emissions reductions, to offset residual emissions, and to provide the option for net negative CO₂ emissions in case global temperatures need to be brought back down.

However, compared to past IPCC reports, WG3 includes a more thorough exploration of models where more rapid emissions reductions are pursued and CDR is more limited.

NEW CLIMATE CATEGORIES AND ‘ILLUSTRATIVE MITIGATION PATHWAYS’

WG3 draws on a database of more than 3,000 different future emis-

sions pathways. They are primarily generated by integrated assessment models (IAMs) that examine energy technologies, energy use choices, land-use changes and societal trends that cause – or prevent – greenhouse gas emissions. (For more details on how IAMs work, see Carbon Brief's detailed Q&A).

Of these, approximately 2,266 scenarios had the global scope needed for the assessment (rather than only modelling regional energy systems), with 1,686 scenarios passing a vetting process designed to screen out models that disagreed with historical data or had unrealistic assumptions about future changes. Finally 1,202 scenarios had sufficient information to calculate a broad range of future greenhouse gas emissions and global climate outcomes.

These scenarios are broadly divided into eight different “climate categories” based on 21st century warming outcomes – labeled C1



The control room of an experimental high-temperature gas-cooled reactor at Tsinghua University in Beijing.
Image: IAEA Imagebank, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Flickr.

Nuclear renaissance hinges on solving the waste issue

As energy transitions and geopolitical shifts revive the nuclear debate, the need for permanent solutions for radioactive waste grows ever more urgent. Do new projects offer hope?, asks **Jenny Johnson**, China Dialogue

There seems to be at least one thing everyone can agree on when it comes to nuclear power: dealing with the industry's dangerous radioactive waste is an urgent global matter.

There is an enormous backlog of radioactive residues from nuclear reactors, known as high-level waste, in need of safe and permanent disposal. This presents a major challenge and inhibits social acceptance of the energy source at a time when the industry is presenting itself as

essential to addressing the climate crisis, as well as energy security in a changing geopolitical landscape.

Though complex, nascent and resource-intensive, the development of deep geological storage sites for spent nuclear fuel and other wastes is currently seen by many as the future gold standard for disposal – and a boon to the industry in those countries that can boast progress in such approaches.

Finland, for example, is using the construction of ONKALO, a first-of-its-kind deep geological disposal site

due to enter operation in 2025, as the basis for dramatically increasing the share of nuclear power in its energy mix. It claims these plans are responsible because it is sufficiently tackling one of the industry's biggest challenges. By contrast, the stalemate on creating such disposal sites in the United States – for now the world's largest producer of nuclear energy – is hindering a further build-out of nuclear power, according to the nation's panel on nuclear waste issues.

“The lack of progress on developing and operating a geological repository... impedes the associated potential benefits of having nuclear energy as part of a zero-carbon future for mitigation of climate change,” the US Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board wrote to



The new regional international airport in Nepal's Pokhara city.
Image: Pokhara Regional International Airport Facebook page

'Sharing the air' proves an obstacle for new Nepal airport in bird paradise

The flight path to the Chinese-funded airport crosses the habitat of vultures and eagles. A landfill site close to the airport also draw these birds of prey, increasing the risk of bird strikes, writes **Abhaya Raj Joshi**, Mongabay.com

Nine lakes listed as Ramsar sites, perennial rivers that start from the Himalayas and beyond, and lush green fields in the foothills of the mountains: these features make Pokhara, a tourist town in western Nepal, a paradise for birds. But the paradise, home to 470 species of birds, could soon be abuzz with aircraft flying in and out of the city, which relies on tourism dol-

lars to keep itself afloat. Every year, thousands of people from around the world visit Pokhara, also the gateway to the famous Annapurna Circuit trek, to enjoy its natural beauty and partake in adventure sports such as paragliding, mountain biking, boating, and canyoning.

A regional international airport, spread over 200 hectares (nearly 500 acres) is being built 3 kilometers, or less than 2 miles, east of the city's existing domestic airport. The

facility will serve as Nepal's third international hub, after Kathmandu and Bhairahawa. Once operational, the airport is expected to host flights to neighboring India and China and to Southeast Asia, seen as a potential tourism market.

"The contractor has been given a July deadline to complete construction work," said Bikram Raj Gautam, head of the Pokhara office of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal. "We will soon start flights after the government gives us a date to do so," he added.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, during his visit to Nepal in late March, handed over the symbolic key to the airport to his Nepali counterpart, signaling that the airport

A construction site in the northern region of Malawi.

Image: Japhet Khendlo / Unsplash



THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF RECOVERY

Investments in physical infrastructure such as highways and power lines have been lagging behind what is needed to meet development goals. To kickstart post-pandemic recovery, there is a need to invest in green infrastructure, writes **Riccardo Puliti**

Physical infrastructure has a critical role to play in supporting the post-pandemic recovery and in laying the longer-term foundations for green, resilient and inclusive development. A growing body of evidence highlights its contribution to a wide range of development indicators, including employment, productivity, income, inequality, trade, and human-capital formation.

Yet across much of the developing world, infrastructure remains woefully inadequate. Some one billion people live more than a mile from an all-season road, 760 million lack access to electricity at home, and 450 million live beyond range of a broadband signal. Even where these services are available, they are frequently erratic and unaffordable.

Indonesia women participants at village reconstruction meeting_Yogyakarta_World Bank

The disruptions caused by unreliable infrastructure cost individuals and businesses hundreds of billions of dollars annually, and the world's poorest and most fragile countries have the most expensive broadband, electricity, and transportation services. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, investment in infrastructure was well below the levels needed to achieve global development goals. Since the pandemic, spending has been squeezed further.

Journalists from across Asia attending a media fellowship on climate change and sustainable development reporting, organised in 2019 by Eco-Business.

Image: Eco-Business



EB IMPACT UNVEILS NEW SUSTAINABILITY MEDIA ACADEMY FOR ASIAN JOURNALISTS

Eco-Business' non-profit arm has launched the Sustainability Media Academy, a first-of-its-kind platform to train media practitioners in the region to better tell the climate story in Asia.

By Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez

An indigenous T'nalak weaver dyes her abaca fibres red near Lake Sebu in South Cotabato, Philippines.

Image: ILO Asia-Pacific, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Flickr.



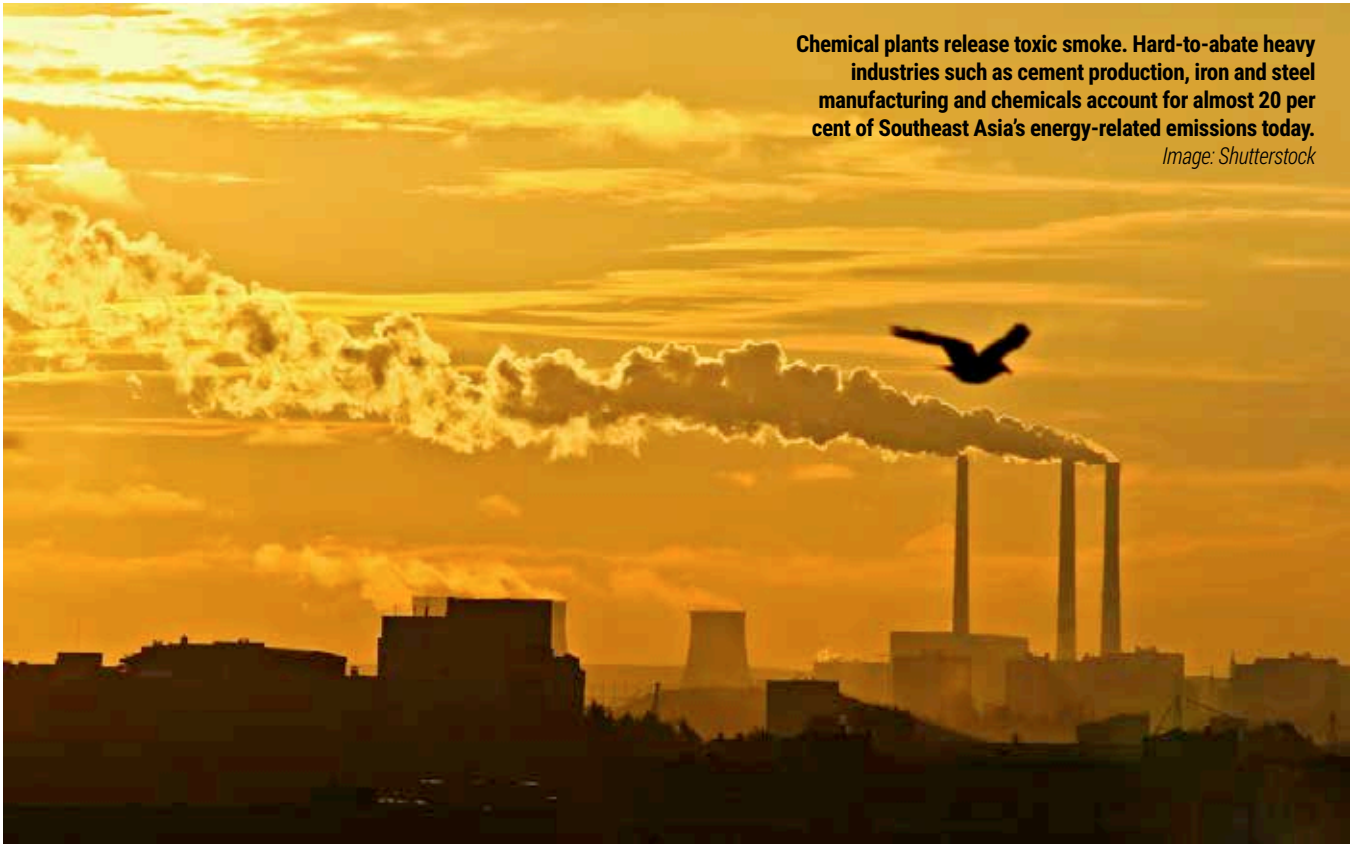
SUSTAINABLE REVOLUTION: BIOMATERIALS POISED TO RENDER FUR, SKINS OUT OF FASHION

Innovators around the globe are achieving inspiring results using natural sources, traditional knowledge, and advanced biotechnology techniques to develop sustainable materials for the fashion industry, says **Jenny Gonzales**, [Mongabay.com](https://www.mongabay.com)

In a globally interconnected world, textiles such as leather sourced from cattle, and wool sheared from sheep, have become a serious source of deforestation, other adverse land-use impacts, biodiversity loss and climate change, while fur farms (harvesting pelts from slaughtered mink, foxes, raccoon dogs and other cage-kept wild animals) have become a major biohazard to human health — a threat underlined by the risk fur farms pose to the current and future spread of zoonotic diseases like Covid-19. But in a not-so-distant future, fashion biomaterials

Chemical plants release toxic smoke. Hard-to-abate heavy industries such as cement production, iron and steel manufacturing and chemicals account for almost 20 per cent of Southeast Asia's energy-related emissions today.

Image: Shutterstock



Green finance set to fund burning waste in cement kilns

Projects to burn waste, including plastic, as alternative fuel in cement kilns are being considered for 'green' financing drawing, criticism from environmentalists, writes **Gillian Parker**

The cement industry, a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, could soon be eligible to tap green financing markets to pay for waste to be burned as fuel in its kilns. While the industry is touting this as a way to reduce its

reliance on fossil fuels, environmentalists say it will discourage one of the world's biggest polluting industries from transitioning to cleaner energy.

The Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), a London-headquartered group which mobilises global capital for climate action, is proposing climate

financing criteria for the cement industry that uses municipal waste to be burned in cement kilns as an alternative fuel, according to a draft Cement Criteria currently under public consultation until 7 May.

The Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA), an industry group representing some of the world's biggest producers, told Eco-Business that using waste as a fuel reduces its reliance on fossil fuels and that the extremely high heat used in its kilns ensures waste is treated in a "safe and environmentally sound way".

It is also a way for the cement industry to cut costs because waste is often available for free and some-

Wind turbine towers under construction in Vietnam.
Image: The Blue Circle



Wind power, while cheap, stutters without government support

Global warming requires renewables to grow at a pace that may outstrip the rules of economics. For capital intensive and complex wind power, energy experts say it's not money that's needed, but the easing of bureaucratic bottlenecks.

In 2020, while Covid-19 brought the world to a standstill, the wind power industry reported a windfall – a record 95.3 gigawatts worth of new projects were built. That was a 57 per cent

increase compared to 2019. Last year, new installations fell to 93.6 gigawatts, according to figures from the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), a Belgium-based international trade association.

The drop was largely due to financial incentives ending in China and the United States. Mild boom-bust cycles have also plagued the market in the past decade.

But such hiccups are becoming increasingly costly for a world relying on the proliferation of clean sources of power to quickly address climate change and energy insecurity.

Wind energy, along with solar, are among the most effective solutions by cost and carbon-saving potential, said scientists in the latest report