

Australian Data Centres Face New Rules to Fully Offset Power Use with Renewables



Australia is moving toward a stricter framework that would require new data centres to match 100 per cent of their electricity consumption with renewable energy. The Clean Energy Council (CEC) has proposed a mechanism that would push operators to secure long-term clean-energy supply and purchase renewable certificates for any interim power needs. The plan is designed to accelerate new wind and solar projects and prevent data-centre growth from increasing household power bills.

What's Changing

Federal and state energy ministers are considering advice on how to enforce Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's commitment that next-generation data centres must add as much clean power to the grid as they consume. Under the CEC proposal, operators would need to sign power purchase agreements with new renewable projects and buy large-scale generation certificates (LGCs) for any electricity used before those projects come online. Existing data centres and existing renewable projects would not be affected.

Why It Matters

Rapid expansion of AI-driven compute has intensified scrutiny of data-centre electricity demand, with concerns that rising load could slow Australia's renewable transition. Many renewable developers have struggled to secure long-term buyers, leaving more than half of projects in the government's flagship subsidy scheme at risk. A mandatory offset framework could unlock stalled projects, improve grid resilience, and support regional investment - though analysts warn that an oversupply of low-priced LGCs could reduce incentives for data centres to commit to new PPAs.

Industry Response

Renewables developers broadly support the proposal, arguing it ensures data-centre growth directly contributes to new generation, storage, and transmission. The data-centre sector is more cautious, noting that operators already offset around 70 per cent of their energy use through PPAs and LGCs, and that achieving 100 per cent renewable supply requires more viable projects built on timelines aligned with data-centre construction.

Full article by Ryan Cropp – The Australian Financial Review

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/renewables-sector-tells-data-centres-to-pay-up-20260722-p60hfm>

Climate-Impacted Communities Across Asia Are Taking Their Fight To Court



Communities across Asia are increasingly turning to the courts to hold governments and major emitters accountable for climate-related harms. This rising wave of litigation is reshaping expectations around corporate responsibility, climate risk disclosure, and long-term resilience - with direct implications for customers, investors, and partners.

What's Happening

Extreme weather events - intensified by climate change - continue to devastate communities in South Korea, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, and beyond. Survivors are now pursuing legal action to seek justice, compensation, and systemic change.

Survivors of Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) in the Philippines have filed a civil case in the UK against Shell, arguing that the company's historic emissions worsened the storm's impacts. This is the first case directly linking a fossil fuel major to deaths and injuries from climate impacts in the Global South.

Across Asia, similar cases are emerging:

- **South Korea:** Constitutional Court ruled parts of the Carbon Neutrality Act unconstitutional for failing to protect future generations.
- **India:** Supreme Court recognized protection from climate impacts as a fundamental right.

- **Malaysia:** First-ever climate cases filed - including a greenwashing suit and a youth-led deforestation challenge.
- **Indonesia → Switzerland:** Residents of Pari Island are suing cement giant Holcim for emissions-driven sea-level rise.

These cases reflect a broader shift: affected communities are using legal systems - both domestic and international - to demand accountability and accelerate climate action.

Why This Matters

This trend has **direct implications** for customers across sectors:

- **Higher expectations for corporate climate accountability** Companies face growing legal exposure for historic and current emissions, misleading claims, and inadequate adaptation measures.
- **Increased scrutiny of ESG commitments** Courts are beginning to treat climate obligations as enforceable - not optional - which raises the bar for credible sustainability strategies.
- **Greater focus on resilience and risk management** As climate litigation expands, businesses may need to strengthen supply-chain resilience, community engagement, and climate-related disclosures.
- **Potential shifts in pricing, insurance, and project timelines** Legal challenges can influence operational costs, insurance availability, and regulatory compliance requirements.

Experts anticipate a rapid rise in climate litigation across Asia, especially cases focused on loss and damage - compensation for climate-related harms. Even when cases fail, they often:

- Establish new legal precedents
- Expose gaps in climate governance
- Influence corporate behavior
- Empower communities to act

For customers, this means the climate accountability landscape is evolving quickly - and companies that proactively strengthen climate strategies will be better positioned to navigate emerging risks.

Full article <https://earth.org/climate-impacted-communities-across-asia-are-taking-their-fight-to-court/>

Hydrogen Trucks Surge in Germany - But the Real Economics Tell a Different Story



Germany's latest hydrogen-truck funding round drew 526 applications chasing €455 million, far exceeding the €220 million available. At first glance, that looks like strong market momentum. But for fleet operators and logistics customers, the more important story is *how* Germany structured the program - and what it means for the future cost of freight.

Germany is offering up to 80% of the hydrogen truck's cost premium over diesel, plus 50% of station costs. Battery-electric trucks, by contrast, currently receive no equivalent federal purchase subsidy, with support focused instead on charging corridors and depot infrastructure. This asymmetry makes hydrogen trucks appear cheaper at the point of purchase, even though their lifetime energy and operating costs remain higher.

The numbers illustrate the distortion:

- Diesel tractor: €150,000
- Battery-electric: ~€300,000
- Hydrogen fuel-cell: ~€425,000 With subsidies, a hydrogen truck's effective cost can fall to ~€205,000, making it look cheaper than an unsubsidized battery-electric truck - despite hydrogen's longer, more energy-intensive supply chain.

For customers, the key distinction is between purchase economics and freight economics. A subsidy is a one-time benefit. Energy, maintenance, uptime, and residual value determine total cost over the truck's life. Battery-electric trucks retain a structural advantage: a shorter energy chain, lower fuel costs, and better alignment with the power system. Hydrogen may still play a role in niche, high-duty cycles - but it must prove it can outperform direct charging, corridor charging, swapping, or operational adjustments.

Meanwhile, global competition is accelerating. China is integrating electric trucks with ports, mines, logistics hubs, charging corridors, battery swapping, and grid planning. Emerging models like CATL–Octopus Energy's Swaptopus suggest future competition will extend into battery ownership, leasing, and route-energy management.

Germany's program shows that generous subsidies can create demand for hydrogen trucks, but it does not yet demonstrate that hydrogen can win on lifetime economics. The real test will come after deployment, when fleets report utilization, fuel costs, station uptime, maintenance, and whether they choose to buy a second hydrogen truck.

Takeaway

Hydrogen trucks may look attractive today because subsidies reduce upfront cost - but battery-electric trucks still offer the stronger long-term economics for most freight operations. As infrastructure scales and financing markets mature, the commercial case for electric freight continues to strengthen.

Full article: <https://cleantechnica.com/2026/07/24/germany-hydrogen-truck-purchase-subsidy/>