



ENERGY TRANSITION DATA BRIEFING

The Countries Leading the Race to Clean Energy

Six data points on who's actually ahead, once you notice that "leading" is being measured three different ways, and that no country is winning all three.

Cross-referencing IEA renewables and investment data, the IEA's Global Critical Minerals Outlook, Wood Mackenzie solar supply chain research, Ember electricity data, and national vehicle registration data.



What's inside the full report

The complete report runs several pages and draws on nine primary sources. Here's the structure, plus the summary table it opens with.

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The clearest case, and why
China's near-60% share of global renewable capacity growth, and how the rest of the world's markets compare against it.
- 2

How we picked these six
What "the scale race," "the share race," and "the supply chain race" actually mean.
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The complete six-case list
Clean energy investment, Norway's EV sales share, Denmark's wind share, and China's manufacturing and minerals dominance, each with sourced figures.
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Also worth watching
Africa's share of global clean energy investment, and why it's a bigger gap than any single country's ranking.
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The caveat that matters most
Why leading the supply chain isn't the same as leading your own grid, and the oil-funded twist behind Norway's EV numbers.

NO.	CONTEXT	TIER	WHY IT'S ON THE LIST
1	China's share of global renewable capacity growth	The scale race	Close to 60% of all new solar and wind capacity added worldwide, more than the rest of the world combined.
2	China's share of global clean energy investment	The scale race	Up from about a quarter of the world total a decade ago to nearly a third today, \$625 billion in 2024 alone.
3	Norway's electric vehicle sales share	The share race	95.9% of new cars sold in Norway in 2025 were fully electric, the highest share in the world.
4	Denmark's wind-powered electricity share	The share race	Close to 60% of Denmark's own electricity comes from wind, the largest share of any grid.
5	China's solar panel manufacturing share	The supply chain race	More than 80% of the world's polysilicon, wafer, cell, and module manufacturing capacity.
6	China's critical minerals processing share	The supply chain race	Dominant refiner for 19 of 20 energy-related minerals the IEA tracks, close to 70% share on average.

The full report also includes an interactive dashboard version of this table, filterable case by case and grounded in the same sources.

EXCERPT FROM THE FULL REPORT

The clearest case: a procession, not a race

The International Energy Agency's Renewables 2025 report puts China's share of global renewable capacity growth at close to 60% through the rest of this decade, more new solar and wind capacity than the rest of the world is expected to add put together. China reached its own 2030 wind and solar capacity target in 2024, six years ahead of schedule, and has continued adding capacity at a pace few forecasters anticipated even a few years ago.

The same report's outlook for other markets makes the gap plainer. The United States saw its capacity expansion forecast cut by roughly half, tied to policy changes including an earlier phase-out of federal tax credits and new restrictions on permitting. India was named the second-largest growth market worldwide, with capacity expected to rise two and a half times over five years.

The European Union received a modest upward revision on stronger utility-scale solar demand, and Saudi Arabia helped drive the single largest regional upgrade, a 25% increase, across the Middle East and North Africa. Every one of these is a real, independent growth story; none of them is close to the scale of the first.

Continues in the full report, alongside clean energy investment, Norway's EV sales share, Denmark's wind share, and China's manufacturing and minerals dominance

GET THE FULL REPORT

This is a short taste of the complete briefing.

The full report covers all six cases in depth, the complete methodology, nine cited sources, and comes with a live interactive dashboard you can embed or share. Get in touch and we'll send it over, or talk to us about custom market or supply-chain research for your own team.

THE FULL PACKAGE INCLUDES

- The complete written report (Word and PDF)
- The interactive clean-energy dashboard, filterable by case
- Full source list with 9 primary citations
- Custom research or refresh schedule, on request

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This preview reflects published research available as of September 2026. It draws on IEA reports, industry research firms, and national data sources, which use different methods and reporting years, and treats each figure as one estimate rather than a universal fact. Full citations are in the complete report.