



GREEN HYDROGEN
SUMMIT

Green Hydrogen SUMMIT 2025:

Report

Hosted by

MASDAR 

INTRODUCTION

Green hydrogen is transforming our ability to decarbonize even the hardest-to-abate sectors of industry and transportation. A world in 2050 that is more efficient, sustainable, and driven by clean, renewable energy is no longer a distant vision; it is already within our grasp.

At this critical juncture, Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week convened the 2025 Green Hydrogen Summit under the theme “Accelerating Green Hydrogen: Charting the Course for Industry Scale-Up,” bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, investors, and civil society from around the world.

From flagship hydrogen projects to the advancements of hydrogen hubs worldwide, climate-conscious governments and visionary entrepreneurs have laid the foundations for a green hydrogen economy. According to the Hydrogen Council, in just four years, capital commitments have increased sevenfold.

However, building a green hydrogen economy is a marathon and not a sprint, and the race has only just begun. To build this economy, global actors will have to find innovative solutions to overcome the typical barriers facing a nascent technology. These include high initial capital expenditure costs, time lags until infrastructure is available, and dependency on policy regulation and subsidies.

The summit, hosted by the UAE and Masdar, during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, focused on how to scale up the industry’s efforts to shape the green hydrogen economy.

In particular, speakers highlighted the practical steps and collaborative mindset required to advance the energy systems transformation toward net-zero emissions by 2050.

The discussions, spanning finance, technology, policies, partnerships, and more, were driven by a noticeable spirit of collaboration and optimism. Together, they outlined a roadmap to accelerate green hydrogen deployment at scale and help ensure green hydrogen is a powerful addition to the clean energy mix of the future.

“As we have been moving towards the lower hanging fruits – decarbonizing the grid, reducing emissions, installing renewables, taking advantage of the capacities of our nuclear reactors,” said Carlos Gascó Travesedo, Energy Policy Executive Director at the Abu Dhabi Department of Energy in his keynote address, “we are now running into a new phase of the energy transition.”

“...we are now running into a new phase of the energy transition.”

Carlos Gascó Travesedo

Energy Policy Executive Director, Abu Dhabi Department of Energy



THE STATE OF GREEN HYDROGEN TODAY

From potential to production

To date, 434 green hydrogen projects have passed final investment decision (FID) with a record USD 75 billion in committed capital, underscoring a clear shift from announcements to implementation. Encouragingly, total announced investments

through to 2030 now top USD 680 billion.

As keynote speaker Ivana Jemelkova, CEO of the Hydrogen Council, announced, the data could not be clearer. “We are talking real money, real projects, and an industry that’s maturing.”

“We are talking real money, real projects, and an industry that’s maturing.”

Ivana Jemelkova

CEO, Hydrogen Council



Participants who attended the Green Hydrogen Summit in 2024 and 2025 would have noticed a distinct difference in tone. From one of possibility and potential to showcasing groundbreaking projects and powerhouse partnerships, this shift in rhetoric reflected the advancing growth of the green hydrogen economy.

Speakers cited examples of tangible progress and exceeded targets. During a fireside chat on the “Hydrogen Economy: Pioneering Trade Models for Global Growth,” H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, highlighted how the UAE’s 2031 production target of 1.4 million tons per annum (mtpa) of low carbon hydrogen has been surpassed: “When you look at the reality, already in TA’ZIZ we are seeing more than 2 mtpa of hydrogen derivatives announced and going to the market.”

Another topic of discussion was how Masdar and EMSTEEL are leading a sustainable steel revolution in the region through a partnership that uses green hydrogen to produce green steel – an important step in decarbonizing the UAE’s hard-to-abate steel sector.



H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei

Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates

Global governance

In the wake of the 2015 Paris Agreement, and the subsequent COP28 in the UAE (2023) and COP29 in Azerbaijan (2024), much work has been done to put green hydrogen squarely on the agenda. The initiatives to do more, faster, and transition away from fossil fuels have created a significant shift in the global conversation.

For example, COP28 produced an Intergovernmental Declaration of Intent on Mutual Recognition of Certification Schemes for Hydrogen and Hydrogen Derivatives, an ISO methodology (ISO/TS 19870) benchmarking hydrogen pathway emissions, and a Public-Private Action Statement on cross-border trade corridors in hydrogen and its derivatives.

Moreover, COP28 pledged to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 and double energy efficiency. To deliver on these pledges, a harmonized certification system to assure that green hydrogen and its derivatives meet globally agreed standards must be adopted and quickly.

“Standards are the currency of global trade,” said Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, CEO of Hydrogen Europe. “Standards are important. And the hydrogen sector has, over the years, developed some important standards that are very transparent. They show the emission footprint, the carbon footprint, and this is key. We now all need to adopt the same standards, the same way.”

“Standards are the currency of global trade.”

Jorgo Chatzimarkakis
CEO, Hydrogen Europe



Global scale-up, global moves

Internationally, ever more countries are breaking ground with green hydrogen initiatives. In the UAE, Masdar is driving the implementation of the Abu Dhabi low-carbon hydrogen policy through numerous projects and strategic collaborations.

For example, the agreement with TotalEnergies to develop a commercial green hydrogen to methanol to SAF (sustainable aviation fuel) project is in place to help decarbonize the hard-to-abate, emission intensive aviation sector. In another development, EMSTEEL has partnered with Masdar to launch a green steel production pilot in the Middle East and North Africa. This project is now operational and has started producing green steel, contributing to sustainable manufacturing in the region.

Japan continues to be a global hydrogen leader, investing billions in hydrogen-related projects, including liquid hydrogen transport technologies.

The country has also piloted liquid hydrogen transport and large-scale export capabilities. As the cost of producing low carbon hydrogen is higher than producing traditional grey hydrogen, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) has introduced a Contract for Differences (CfD) scheme. This supply-side subsidy provides support for the price gap between sourcing low carbon hydrogen and its derivatives as compared to conventional fuels for a term of up to 15 years to stimulate demand in the low carbon hydrogen market.

Europe is witnessing significant advancements in green hydrogen development, with notable projects from Stegra, RWE, and Lhyfe. Stegra, formerly known as H2 Green Steel, is constructing the world's first large-scale green steel plant in Boden, Sweden.

This facility will utilize Europe's largest electrolyzer to produce green hydrogen, replacing coal in the steelmaking process and aiming for up to 95% CO₂ emission reduction. RWE is actively involved in over 30 hydrogen projects across Europe, including a

300MW electrolyzer plant in Germany, which will supply green hydrogen to TotalEnergies' Leuna refinery starting in 2030.

Additionally, RWE is collaborating on the NorthH₂ project in the Netherlands, aiming to produce green hydrogen using offshore wind energy. In France, Lhyfe is expanding its green hydrogen production with the Green Horizon project in Normandy, which will produce up to 34 tonnes of green hydrogen per day.

Obstacles to overcome

The future of the low carbon hydrogen economy looks bright, but it is far from guaranteed, despite businesses and governments moving climate change higher on their agendas. While participants at the summit were buoyed by gains, they were also realistic about the challenges they faced and the importance of working together to overcome obstacles.

Big-picture issues such as macroeconomic headwinds – rising inflation and interest rates, for example – and geopolitical tensions were among these, as well as more sector-specific issues like off-take demand and the enabling of midstream infrastructure. Speaker Romain Talagrand, Global Head of Renewable Energy Financing and Hydrogen Low Carbon Transition Group at BNP Paribas noted, "The main obstacle today, obviously, is cost. It's difficult for offtakers to commit to something that is more expensive than their current fossil fuel alternative, or more expensive than what green hydrogen will be later down the road, when things improve, when it scales up."



Romain Talagrand

Global Head of Renewable Energy Financing and Hydrogen Low Carbon Transition Group, BNP Paribas

FINANCING THE FUTURE

The figures speak for themselves. The green hydrogen industry has experienced rapid growth, with a sevenfold increase in the past four years driven by technological advancements, government policies, and increasing demand for sustainable energy solutions.

Looking down the global project pipeline, the view is promising. Proposed clean hydrogen projects have risen from 228 in 2020 to 1,572 in 2024, and total announced investments through to 2030 are expected to reach USD 680 billion. Despite a committed USD 75 billion, the pace and scale of deployment is not enough to stay on track with global climate commitments. To scale the green hydrogen economy effectively, an eightfold increase in committed capital is required by 2030.

Investing for the long term

One obstacle to this growth, participants noted, is the lack of offtaker demand, while potential buyers wait for infrastructure, a stable supply, and a competitive price for green hydrogen before committing to contracts.

As a result, less than 10% of hydrogen projects globally have secured long-term off-take agreements, limiting financial stability for many initiatives. Most schemes that have successfully secured off-take are “integrated.” By incorporating the offtaker as an investor, joint developer, or some other equity partner on the production side,

it’s easier to achieve cooperation and balanced risk distribution. “It has to be a distributed risk, because otherwise we’ll be in the same dilemma for a long time,” said Tarek Hosny, Head of Investment and Projects at Fertiglobe.

With national budgets squeezed more than ever, the eightfold increase required in committed capital to meet climate goals is an eye-watering sum. But as the summit’s speakers made clear, it’s not impossible to secure creative thinking, thoughtful partnership, and shared commitment to a net-zero future.

“It has to be a distributed risk, because otherwise we’ll be in the same dilemma for a long time.”

Tarek Hosny

Head of Investment and Projects, Fertiglobe



Avenues to fund and scale the green hydrogen economy

Governments must collaborate with private entities to de-risk investments, providing guarantees, subsidies, and tax credits. James Schofield, Deputy Director, Industrial Transition Accelerator (ITA) at Mission Possible Partnership, described how his organization, backed by a vast network of climate innovators, industry leaders, and technical experts has worked to achieve this.

“ITA was launched at COP28 as an international initiative to support and partner with project developers of large-scale, deep decarbonization production facilities,” he said. “We’re co-funded by the UAE under the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, and we’re working here in the UAE, partnering with industries to help de-risk and remove obstacles to final investment decisions.” Reference was also made to the EU’s

supportive regulatory environment for public-private partnerships with the creation of institutions such as the European Hydrogen Bank, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership, and European Clean Hydrogen Alliance. Moeve’s Green Hydrogen Valley projects in Andalusia provided an example of such EU support.

Speaker Joaquín Rodríguez Jadraque, Director of Hydrogen and Clean Power at Moeve said, “We have been recognized by the European Union as a PCI project, a project of common interest. So we asked for ... accelerated permitting to prioritize the infrastructure connecting our projects to other projects, and subsidies to be concentrated in those projects that can really decarbonize immediately key infrastructure, key industries.”

Policy support and incentives

Clear, consistent, and internationally harmonized policies are essential to unlock funding. For example: long-term off-take agreements can provide stable returns for investors. Tax incentives, summit delegates said, like those in the US and Canada are crucial to fostering investments.

The recently announced final rules for the section 45V Clean Hydrogen US Production Tax Credit, has created a fresh 10-year incentive to accelerate the deployment of clean hydrogen and support cleaner producers.



Joaquín Rodríguez Jadraque
Director of Hydrogen and Clean Power, Moeve

Hydrogen hubs and oases

Scaling new hydrogen infrastructure calls for companies and governments to think and act in bold and innovative ways. Dr. Faye Al Hersh, Head of Green Hydrogen Business Development (UAE), Masdar, outlined how, for example, Abu Dhabi is accelerating the development of the UAE’s hydrogen ecosystem through the establishment of clean electricity clusters and hydrogen oases (also

called hubs or valleys) to optimize development costs and increase operational efficiency.

She highlighted that developing the hydrogen ecosystem within such a concept would allow the development and use of common infrastructure (for example, terminals and utilities) to capture higher economies of scale.

“But another advantage of having these green hydrogen hubs and the renewable energy that would be powering them will be to attract other hubs to locate nearby, such as chemical or metal

hubs,” said Dr. Faye Al Hersh, adding “we think there are many advantages to developing the hydrogen ecosystem within such a concept, and the UAE is truly able to develop this ecosystem competitively.”

Innovation and technology

Traditional systems to manage green hydrogen production and operational costs are no longer sufficient. The role of digital tools, such as digital twins, to reduce production costs and optimize green hydrogen supply chains has become essential. As a virtual representation of real-world infrastructure, digital twins can model multiple designs and scenarios to maximize return on investment and minimize risk.

Mathias Schinzel, President – Middle East and Africa at Emerson, spoke of digital solutions

and AI that, when applied to green hydrogen infrastructure, could help adapt systems to new and challenging conditions, drive efficiency and innovation, and thereby lower capital expenditure and operating expenses. “Technology can be applied, certainly in the software space in what we call the digital twin concept,” he said. “We know from consultants that applying the digital twin concept will save you 10-15% of costs.” Likewise, the use of monitoring and control systems, and data management and analytics all offer financial incentives and solutions, he added.

“We know from consultants that applying the digital twin concept will save you 10-15% of costs.”

Mathias Schinzel

President – Middle East and Africa, Emerson



Innovative financial models

The adoption of consortium models – bringing together industrial players and financial investors – can pool resources and distribute risks. Leveraging multilateral development banks and green bonds can also support large-scale funding efforts.

The discussion “Unlocking Capital for Hydrogen Projects: A Multi-Stakeholder Perspective” highlighted the need for innovative financial models. Stephan Gobert, Head of Strategy for Flexible Generation AMEA at ENGIE, highlighted the effectiveness of consortium models which offer the opportunity to start with scale and then scale up more. ENGIE’s first small project in South Africa, a partnership with Anglo American, and a 10MW project in Australia in partnership with Mitsui and Yara, allowed ENGIE to build, operate, and maintain those assets to understand efficiency and true cost more deeply over time. The best approach, Gobert said, was to “find good partners, share the risk, share the development cost, share the construction cost, and have realistic ambitions on the returns of those projects and avoid project finance being purely on the balance sheet.”



Stephan Gobert

Head of Strategy of Flexible Generation AMEA, ENGIE

Suzanna Gaboury, Director General for Private Sector Operations at the Asian Development Bank, weighed in on leveraging multinational development bank support for large-scale funding: “Because we have offices in some 44 countries, it’s really important for us to make sure that the

policy dialogues align with what can be done, so that we can actually attract private investment to green hydrogen production.” Given differing country circumstances, tax credits, incentives, and policies tailored to national contexts are essential, she said.

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Suzanna Gaboury

Director General for Private Sector Operations,
The Asian Development Bank



GREEN HYDROGEN FOR ONE, GREEN HYDROGEN FOR ALL

As we build the green hydrogen economy, stakeholders must deliberately design an ecosystem which works to decarbonize across income levels and borders. This involves focusing on three key aspects: corridors, capacity building, and collaboration.

Green hydrogen corridors

Efforts to develop green hydrogen corridors connecting the Global North and South can balance economic, social, and environmental disparities and reduce dependence on fossil fuels in an increasing number of ways. As the hydrogen economy builds, the movement of green hydrogen between the Global North and South is also catalyzing green shipping corridors and the feasibility of zero-emission shipping.

Organizations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are working towards decarbonizing this vast sector. “Yes, it’s about job creation. It’s about greening up the manufacturing base,” said Aida Sitdikova, Director and Head of Energy Eurasia and Sustainable Infrastructure Group at EBRD, discussing the corridors needed to help countries of the Global South realize their export

potential. “But importantly also, it’s decarbonizing the countries themselves ... green hydrogen should not be exclusively export-oriented. There should be a balance between decarbonization efforts in Europe and the growth development agenda in the Global South.”

For speaker Luc Koechlin, CEO and Managing Director of EDF Middle East, green corridors offer a new pathway for data. “When we talk about the location of renewable resources, location of the end use and how this is managed, it’s all about transfer – and transferring data is easy,” he said. “We are highly involved in developing electricity use in the Global South, so developing data centers close to the location of renewable energy in the Global South is probably a very good way to manage this.”

“There should be a balance between decarbonization efforts in Europe and the growth development agenda in the Global South.”

Aida Sitdikova

Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Middle East and Africa, at EBRD



The Middle East, Africa, and Latin America were all noted for their potential to be green hydrogen exporters while ensuring domestic decarbonization. However, speakers emphasized that the Middle East offers singular advantages for becoming a central core region for developing green hydrogen corridors. Panel moderator Robin Mills, CEO of Qamar Energy, highlighted the Middle East's important international transport routes with the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal, land routes, and its ability to supply East Asia, Japan, Korea, South Asia, and Europe.

"I think the Middle East sits in a very advantageous position given that many countries in the region have now come up with very clear strategies on what kind of trajectory they want to take on hydrogen," said Gauri Singh, Deputy Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).



Luc Koechlin

CEO, EDF Middle East

"These are also countries which have a huge base of skilled workforce, and the kind of cost of capital they can access is remarkable ... This is a huge advantage, but also the fact that there's already emphasis on going from the blue to the green route, that is clearly a way forward so these countries can start establishing themselves as the energy centers for the future."

"I think the Middle East sits in a very advantageous position given that many countries in the region have now come up with very clear strategies on what kind of trajectory they want to take on hydrogen."

Gauri Singh

Deputy Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)



Capacity building

Local capacity building in the Global South will only succeed if it ensures inclusive economic growth, creating jobs in underserved regions and involvement with local communities and Indigenous peoples, a message that Mike Dunleavy, Governor of Alaska, endorsed during a fireside chat on "Leveraging Regional Advantages in Hydrogen Production." The scale and potential to produce green hydrogen in Alaska is huge, he said, with

the capability to be a hydrogen hub for East Asia. Against this backdrop, he noted that 20% of Alaska's small 740,000 population is Indigenous, recognizing the importance of integrating that community into the state's nascent green hydrogen projects to form the basis of a future skilled workforce. "There are 12 very large native corporations, and some of them are multibillion dollar corporations, Fortune 500 corporations.

They invest in a number of different opportunities. And hydrogen being new, we're starting to just scratch the surface and what that could look like with our Native community in Kotzebue, which is north of the Arctic Circle.

They are in a pilot project right now using wind to crack water into hydrogen for use on their site," said Mike Dunleavy. Pilot projects, like Abu Dhabi's green hydrogen production plant developed by Masdar

at the steel plant of EMSTEEL, were noted for their potential to demonstrate new ways of industrial decarbonization and effective capacity building. Naturally, such projects depend on a highly skilled workforce. To engage its local communities and accelerate the participation of UAE nationals in a sustainable future, EMSTEEL provides a range of career schemes, for example, through its three-year Career Aspiration Program.

"There are 12 very large native corporations, and some of them are multibillion dollar corporations, Fortune 500 corporations. They invest in a number of different opportunities. And hydrogen being new, we're starting to just scratch the surface."

Mike Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska



Effective collaboration

The takeaway message was upbeat and unmistakable: collaboration is the linchpin for scaling green hydrogen and ensuring that its development contributes to a just, equitable transformation.

During his address, Mohammad Abdelqader El-Ramahi, Chief Green Hydrogen Officer at Masdar, told participants that "We're all working together to deepen our collaboration, strengthen our joint efforts to open new frontiers of investment opportunities, of transforming and exchanging knowledge collaboratively, of deploying sustainable financial models, and very importantly, to harmonize global standards to make green hydrogen the reality of the future."

Across the value chain, collaboration between people at the global scale continues to evolve in inspiring ways. In Europe, for example, Masdar and Daimler Truck are exploring the export of liquid

green hydrogen from Abu Dhabi to tackle CO₂ emissions in road freight transport across Europe.

Through coordinated action, shared infrastructure and inclusive policies, the global community can unlock the transformative potential of green hydrogen while addressing socio-economic disparities, such as those between Global North and South, that have long plagued the energy systems transformation.

Whether it's enabling governance such as that demonstrated by the UAE, or the work of inter-governmental partnerships and organizations including IPHE, IRENA, the International Hydrogen Trade Forum, and Hydrogen Council, the consensus was clear. Only with concrete international actions and people working together will we decarbonize and secure a green hydrogen economy for all.

“We’re all working together to deepen our collaboration.”

Mohammad Abdelqader El-Ramahi

Chief Green Hydrogen Officer, Masdar



GAME-CHANGER FOR A CLEANER, FAIRER WORLD

Throughout the conversations at this year’s Green Hydrogen Summit, it was clear from the speakers on the podium that the benefits of green hydrogen go far beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The discussions highlighted how green hydrogen is poised to be a catalyst for sustainable economic growth, job creation, and energy security. As countries accelerate their green hydrogen initiatives, the potential to create new industries and reshape global energy markets is immense.

However, this transformation requires more than just technical innovation – it demands a concerted effort from governments, industries, and communities to collaborate, share knowledge, and align policies for the common good.

The summit underscored the importance of scaling up production, infrastructure, and financing to unlock the full potential of green hydrogen. With global investments reaching record levels and partnerships blossoming worldwide, the path to a green hydrogen economy is clear. Yet, challenges

such as cost competitiveness, regulatory hurdles, and the need for more robust infrastructure remain. Addressing these challenges will require bold action, innovative financing models, and continued international cooperation.

Ultimately, green hydrogen represents more than just a fuel source – it is a game-changer for a cleaner, fairer world. By prioritizing equitable access, capacity building, and cross-border collaboration, the global community can ensure that the benefits of green hydrogen reach all corners of the globe, driving the transition to a low-carbon future for everyone.

The journey toward a sustainable and just energy future is underway, and green hydrogen is a central player in that transformation.



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About Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) is a global platform supported by the UAE and its clean energy leader, Masdar, to address the world's most pressing sustainability challenges through crucial conversations accelerating responsible development and fostering inclusive economic, social and environmental progress.

For more than 15 years, ADSW has convened decision-makers from governments, the private sector and civil society to advance the global sustainability agenda through dialogue, cross-sector collaboration and impactful solutions. Throughout the year, ADSW conversations and initiatives facilitate the knowledge sharing, innovation and collective action that will ensure a sustainable world for future generations.

About Masdar

Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) is one of the world's fastest-growing renewable energy companies. As a global clean energy leader, Masdar is advancing the development and deployment of solar, wind, geothermal, battery storage and green hydrogen technologies to accelerate the energy transformation and help the world meet its net-zero ambitions. Established in 2006, Masdar has developed and invested in projects in over 40 countries with a combined capacity of 51 gigawatts (GW), providing affordable clean energy access to those who need it most and helping to power a more sustainable future.

Masdar is jointly owned by TAQA, ADNOC, and Mubadala, and is targeting a renewable energy portfolio capacity of 100GW by 2030 while aiming to be a leading producer of green hydrogen by the same year.



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