

*The following excerpts are sourced from three online articles that discuss the influence of AI on global sustainability growth, provide an update on U.S. funding regarding its Paris Agreement climate commitments, and share a local announcement from Ireland about future sustainable investments. Detailed references for all the content mentioned can be found below.*

In this week's news feature, **AI Multiple Research (2025)** highlights how businesses can harness AI technology for a smarter, more efficient, and sustainable future. Additionally, **MSN.com (2024)** reports on Billionaire Michael Bloomberg and his plans in light of the new Trump administration's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on climate. Lastly, there was a significant announcement from the Irish Government on sustainable infrastructural investment in its transition to net zero.



## **Top Sustainability AI Applications in 2025**

**AI Multiple Research (2025)** highlights the extensive impact of AI across various industries, including supply chains and healthcare. The study also discusses how organisations can implement strategies to reduce energy consumption during AI model development while utilising the efficiencies of GenAI to mitigate emissions in other operational sectors. Here are some examples provided:

### **Preparedness for natural disasters.**

AI plays a critical role in enhancing disaster preparedness and response, particularly as extreme weather events intensify due to climate change. By powering systems like flood warning networks and forest fire detection, AI can save lives, protect livelihoods, and mitigate economic losses. Leveraging real-time data, predictive models, and advanced sensors, these technologies offer early detection and actionable insights to reduce the devastating impacts of natural disasters.

### **Fighting air pollution.**

With data provided from air quality monitors, AI can offer insights on the impact of air quality on people and help decide on health protection policies. Also, by processing data from different monitors real time, it can send out alerts when pollution levels spike. This way, people can act right away; stay in or wear masks. Predictive models, developed with AI and machine learning models, can forecast information such as air-pollutant concentration.



### **Data analysis for sustainability.**

Analysing business documents & reducing waste- generative AI systems can process and analyse business documents, helping companies identify opportunities to reduce waste and enhance sustainability efforts. Detecting Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions— those generated indirectly through supply chains and product lifecycles— can be more challenging. However, leveraging AI tools such as

ChatGPT enables companies to pinpoint these risks effectively by analysing vast amounts of publicly available data. AI systems can help businesses and organisations to optimise energy usage in data centers, predict and manage energy storage needs, aligning renewable energy generation with demand and reduce electronic waste by extending the entire lifecycle of devices using AI-driven maintenance recommendations.

### **Sustainable agriculture.**

AI technologies in agriculture help farmers to address challenges such as resource inefficiency and environmental impact. By integrating tools like agricultural robotics, weather monitoring systems, and land management algorithms, farmers can optimise operations, reduce waste, and align with sustainability goals. As an example, with the help of satellite images and algorithms, and land-use data, farmers can plan where and when to plant their crops more efficiently.

### **Safer workplace.**

Sustainability is a combination of three parts. These parts are environmental, social and governmental. A business needs to focus on all three parts to be truly sustainable. AI-enabled computer vision systems can help improve worker safety by ensuring compliance with safety rules. This can help improve the social sustainability of a business by making the business more secure for its workers.

### **Reduced energy consumption.**

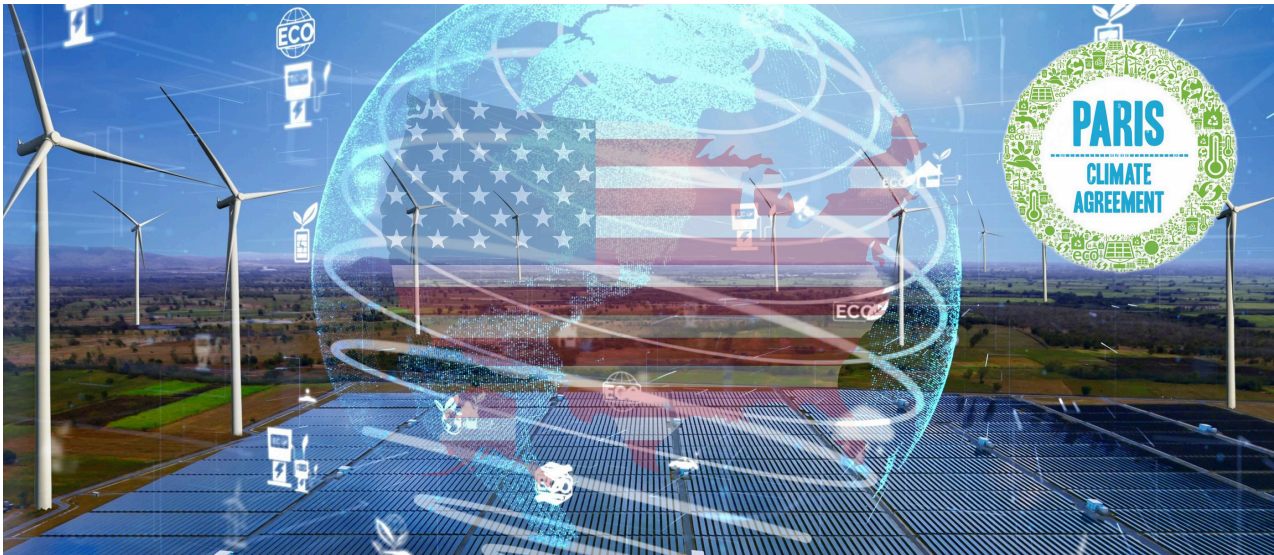
AI can help increase use of renewable energy by studying the patterns of energy consumption and providing insights on reducing and improving consumption while not compromising the company's productivity.

### **Optimised and sustainable logistics.**

AI can also help improve the sustainability of the distribution and logistics operations of a business, which account for a significant chunk of the total corporate carbon footprint. AI-power software can provide optimised routes for the delivery of products by incorporating sustainability as a key factor. Route optimisation systems have become a necessity for logistics firms since they provide significant financial and environmental benefits.

### **Less defective production.**

AI-enabled computer vision systems can address product return issues stemming from defects or customer dissatisfaction by minimising production errors at the manufacturing stage. Computer vision-enabled quality control systems installed on the conveyor belt or production line can inspect the quality of the product more accurately and efficiently than manual inspection.



## **Billionaire Michael Bloomberg to fund UN climate change body after US exits Paris Agreement**

**As President Donald Trump withdraws the US from the Paris Agreement, yet again, MSN.com reports that billionaire Michael Bloomberg is stepping in to help the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) remain fully funded despite the US ending its international climate contributions:**

Michael Bloomberg, the former New York City mayor, a UN special envoy on climate change and, according to the Forbes' global billionaires list, the 16th richest person in the world, announced his funding pledge on the 23rd of January. The core of the UN climate organisation's budget comes from its almost 200 member countries. As the world's largest economy, the US usually pays the biggest dues at around 21 per cent.

"We deeply appreciate the generous support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the leadership shown by Mike Bloomberg," said Simon Stiell, United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary. "While government funding remains essential to our mission, contributions like this are vital in enabling the UN Climate Change secretariat to support countries in fulfilling their commitments under the Paris Agreement and a low-emission, resilient, and safer future for everyone."

President Trump previously withdrew the US from the global climate accord during his first term in 2017, but the country soon rejoined under President Biden. It will take around a year for this new withdrawal to take effect - when it does, the US will join Iran, Libya and Yemen as the only UN countries not part of the agreement. For now, Bloomberg Philanthropies, along with other US climate action financiers, have said they will cover the amount the US owes each year to the UNFCCC. It did not give details of the exact amounts of funding or who the other climate funders are.

It added that more and more Americans have had their lives torn apart by climate-fuelled disasters like the wildfires raging in California. At the same time, he says the US is experiencing the "economic benefits of clean energy," with prices falling and jobs created across both Republican and Democratic states. Bloomberg, a media billionaire, also pledged to work with states, cities and companies to ensure the US stays on track with its global climate commitments. That includes working with subnational climate leaders to track and report on the country's progress over the next four years. "The American people remain determined to continue the fight against the devastating effects of climate change.

MSN.com (2024)



## **State-owned ISIF launches new energy transition fund with Schrodgers Greencoat**

**The Irish Times (2025) reports that the State-owned Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) is introducing a new private markets fund aimed at investing in energy transition infrastructure assets throughout Europe, with a special emphasis on Ireland.**

ISIF is partnering on the fund with Schrodgers Greencoat, a specialist renewables and energy transition infrastructure manager, within global asset manager Schrodgers Capital. The fund will be seeking to invest “in a number of projects” in Ireland, it said, with a focus on greenfield new-build projects. ISIF has committed €100 million as a cornerstone investor in the fund, which has launched with more than €220 million in initial capital. Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe welcomed the move: “The €100 million commitment to the fund announced today demonstrates ISIF’s commitment both to tackling climate change and to supporting the transition to Net Zero in Ireland while delivering on its double bottom-line mandate to create jobs and growth,” he said.

The announcement expands on an existing relationship between ISIF and Schrodgers Greencoat, with ISIF becoming an anchor investor in the initial public offering (IPO) of Greencoat Renewables plc in 2017. The new fund will aim to build a diversified portfolio of energy transition investments across Europe, while investments in Ireland will be focused on the growth of renewable energy infrastructure capabilities, grid infrastructure, interconnection with Europe and the UK, and battery storage. The balance of capital raised for the fund has come from funds managed by Schrodgers Greencoat, as well as from the European insurance sector and a Japanese utility.

Schrodgers Greencoat has extensive experience in investing in European energy infrastructure assets, having completed 35 transactions involving 46 energy transition assets with a total enterprise value of more than €3 billion. Of this, €1.5 billion has been invested across Irish wind, solar and battery storage assets.

Irish Times ( 2025)

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