Sustainability Bulletin

16 February 2026

5% Surge: China Hits 639 Billion Yuan in Grid Investment

Grid bottlenecks are emerging as one of the biggest barriers to clean energy growth, and China is responding with record investment. Bloomberg reports that China's spending on power grids rose 5 percent in 2025 to about 89 billion dollars, converted from 639.5 billion yuan based on data from the China Electricity Council. Investment is expected to keep rising through 2030.

It reflects a shift toward integrating clean power, not just adding new generation. Stronger transmission and smarter distribution networks can reduce renewable curtailment, accelerate electrification, and support faster growth in storage and flexible demand. They also enable long distance connections that move renewable electricity from resource rich regions to high demand industrial hubs.

For Asia and beyond, the takeaway is clear: grid readiness is now a key test of whether clean energy capacity can translate into real emissions reductions.

6.1 Billion People: A New Era of Global Water Bankruptcy

A recent United Nations assessment presents a more urgent picture of global water stress. It suggests that many water systems are being depleted beyond recovery. According to Bloomberg, three quarters of the world's population, around 6.1 billion people, live in countries where freshwater supplies are insecure or critically insecure.

The strain goes beyond drought. It is driven by over extraction, pollution, and demand that grows faster than natural recharge. The report also notes that four billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month each year. Reliable access to water is now a central development challenge, on par with energy access.

For sustainability planners, the implications are clear. Water efficiency, reuse, and climate resilient supply are no longer optional infrastructural improvements. They are essential elements of economic risk management.

94 Gigawatts: The Data Center Power Surge Is Redrawing Energy Plans

Growing demand from AI infrastructure is set to reshape electricity markets. Bloomberg reports that an additional 94 gigawatts could be required by 2030 to power new data centers, placing grid capacity at the center of digital expansion.

The priority is to meet rising demand without sacrificing reliability or increasing carbon intensity. Long term contracts and faster interconnection planning can help direct new capacity toward cleaner power.

$89 billion

In 2025, China raised grid investment by 5 percent to 89 billion dollars to support clean energy expansion through 2030

6.1 billion

Around 6.1 billion people face insecure freshwater supplies, and four billion experience severe water scarcity yearly

94 gigawatts

AI data centers could require an additional 94 gigawatts of power by 2030, intensifying pressure on grid capacity