



Korean Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment releases 2026 plan

2026.02.13

On 1 February 2026, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment announced that it has the goal of distributing 100GW of renewable energy by 2030 and expanding the power grid needed to accommodate it. The Ministry presented four major initiatives:

1. Accelerating renewable energy development and reducing costs
2. Innovating and expanding the power grid
3. Building a power system that supports a just and inclusive energy transition
4. Enhancing acceptance and sustainability of nuclear power policy

Key takeaways

1. Accelerating Renewable Energy

Solar: Expansion of rooftop PV installations on traditional markets, schools, parking lots, and factory roofs. Promotion of “Sunlight Income Villages.

Onshore Wind: Allowing Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) wind resource data instead of wind measurement tower requirements. Reforming the wind power bidding system.

Offshore Wind: Introduction of government-led planned development zones in line with implementation of the Offshore Wind Power Special Act (March). Preparation of a long-term bidding execution plan for 2035.

RPS reform: Converting RPS obligations from a percentage of generation to capacity-based (GW) targets. Unifying new facilities under long-term fixed-price contracts.

2. Power Grid Expansion

Grid Connection System: Strengthening oversight of delayed projects. Switching from a first-come-first-served system to a priority-access system based on grid necessity. Legal amendments to grant priority grid access for public-interest projects.

Grid Stabilization & Expansion: Expanding flexible grid connections depending on grid stabilization facilities or functions. Replacing existing transmission lines with high-capacity conductors. Amending regulations to ensure system-stabilization capability for new entrants.

3. Energy Transition

Power Mix & Roadmap: Reflecting a carbon-free generation mix and phaseout of coal generation in the 12th Basic Power Supply Plan (2026–2040).

Renewable Energy Market Reform: Introducing “quasi-central dispatch” for renewable generators. Preparing expansion plans for renewable price bidding systems (currently piloted in Jeju Island) to the mainland.

Electricity Tariff Reform: Reducing industrial rates during daytime and raising them during evening hours. Presenting options for regional electricity pricing within the year.

4. Nuclear Power

Enhancing Utilization: Proceeding expeditiously on new nuclear construction and continued operation of aging reactors. Filing for standard design approval for i-SMRs.

Back-End Fuel Cycle Management: Launching site selection procedures for high-level radioactive waste disposal facilities.

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Key Contacts

Michael Chang

Sang-Hyun Lee

Senior Foreign Attorney

+82-2-316-4653
mchang@shinkim.com

Su-Yong Jung

Partner

+82-2-316-4345
syjung@shinkim.com

Na Yu

Partner

+82-2-316-1757
nyu@shinkim.com

Partner

+82-2-316-4068
shlee@shinkim.com

Jae Wook Ryu

Partner

+82-2-316-1635
jwryu@shinkim.com

Ryowon Kim

Associate

+82-2-316-1893
rwkim@shinkim.com