Ayala Corp. eyes early achievement of net-zero goal

AYALA CORP. is aiming to achieve its net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target ahead of its 2050 deadline, with progress driven by renewable energy and mobility investments across its subsidiaries, a company official said.

"Our net-zero goal is a work in progress. Obviously, 2050 was the goal. We will try to do as much as we can to make that target or even before," Ayala Corp. Chief Sustainability and Risk Officer Jaime Z. Urquijo told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of the Philippine Investment Conference on Aug. 29.

Net zero refers to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible while offsetting remaining emissions.

Mr. Urquijo said Ayala Corp.'s strategy involves responsible investments that integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, with a focus on renewable energy and transportation.

"We feel very strongly that the fundamental momentum is really built on solid fundamentals especially in two areas specifically, renewable energy and mobility space," he said.

Ayala Corp.'s listed power unit, ACEN Corp., last week announced the sale of its remaining diesel power plant as it moves toward a 100% renewable energy portfolio by yearend. ACEN has set near-term emission reduction goals for 2030, long-term reduction targets for 2040, and aims to neutralize residual emissions to reach net zero by 2050. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Outlier,
from S1/4

Jasper Timoteo A. Ondap, equity analyst at Regina Capital Development Corp., compared the regulatory pressure to recent challenges faced by the gaming industry.

"Just like what happened to the gaming industry which faced regulatory challenges, Konektadong Pinoy Act puts the same pressure on telcos," Mr. Ondap said in an e-mail.

Mr. Ondap added that Globe hit six- to seven-year lows while PLDT touched one-year lows following news of the law.

However, Peter Louise D. Garnace, equity research analyst at Unicapital Securities, Inc., said in a separate e-mail that the law "is not necessarily a pure headwind."

"It represents a structural shift that may challenge the old-economy legacy business models, while creating opportunities through wholesale and digital inclusion plays."

Mr. Garnace added that PLDT faces moderate risk as data liberalization will erode its market leadership and pricing power as value-sensitive users switch to lower-cost alternatives.

Despite headwinds, PLDT continues to expand through strategic technology deployments and investments. The company said in a media release last Monday that it plans to deploy Google Taara laser communication technology to reach remote areas without traditional fiber costs.

"Since a big chunk of PLDT's service revenues comes from mobile and fiber broadband, any meaningful contribution depends on roll-out speed, pricing, and monetization capacity," Mr. Garnace said.

Mr. Ondap described the technology deployment as "a good development and strategy" that could propel revenue growth.

"But [it's] too early to tell in the upcoming two to three years. The telco's performance lately just reflects how sticky the Konektadong Pinoy Act is."

PLDT also executed a subscription agreement for additional shares in Kayana Solutions, a data-powered digital experience company. — **Pierce Oel A. Montalvo**

FULL STORY

Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link
<tinyurl.com/msk52b28>

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Energy
(Kagawaran ng Enerhiya)

ENERGY UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT BUREAU

BAGONG PILIPINAS

ADVISORY

TO : ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs)

SUBJECT : ADMINISTRATION AND RECOGNITION OF CENTER FOR AFFILIATED RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION (CARE) FOR CY2026

DATE : 22 AUGUST 2025

Pursuant to Department Circular No. DC2024-06-0020 which provides the rules and regulations in recognition of higher education institutions (HEIs) as CARE and the conversion of existing Affiliated Renewable Energy Centers (ARECs), the DOE shall provide guidance on the recognition of CAREs and the determination of thematic areas which shall define the project scope and outputs of CAREs. To further guide HEIs on their application for CARE and its funding activities, concerned entities shall adhere to the following:

Section 1. Scope. This Advisory shall cover proposals on energy efficiency and conservation and emerging energy efficient technologies.

Section 2. Eligibility. The following HEIs shall be eligible and entitled to submit their proposals for funding of their respective project/s:

a. Those duly recognized by the DOE pursuant to Section 5 of DC2024-06-0020;
b. Those with valid certificate as a CARE, and;
c. Those able to fully liquidate their prior undertakings with the DOE.

However, HEIs with any unliquidated fund to the DOE on any similar project shall not be eligible to participate in the CY2026 call for proposals.

Section 3. Thematic Areas. The proposals of CAREs for CY2026 shall be based on the following thematic areas:

a. ***Energy Performance Benchmarking in the Commercial and Industrial Sector.*** This area focuses on establishing benchmarks for energy performance, enabling organizations to assess and improve their energy efficiency practices. It will involve data collection, analysis, and the development of standardized metrics.

b. ***Market Assessment of Energy Efficient Technologies (ECTs).*** This area will evaluate the current market landscape for energy efficient technologies and equipment, identifying barriers to adoption and opportunities for growth. The assessment will provide insights into consumer behavior, market trends, and potential policy impacts.

c. ***Training Regulation Development for the Energy Efficiency (EE) Practitioners.*** This area aims to develop a comprehensive training framework and regulatory standards for energy efficiency practitioners. The focus will be on enhancing the qualifications, skills, and competencies required to drive effective energy management and compliance with emerging regulations. The development of the training regulation shall be aligned with existing issuances of the DOE on EE Practitioners.

d. ***Emerging Energy Technologies.*** This thematic area will explore innovative and emerging technologies that have the potential to revolutionize energy consumption and efficiency. Proposals will focus on research, pilot projects, and implementation strategies for these technologies to accelerate their integration into existing systems.

The proposals shall be accompanied by the requirements stipulated under Section 12 of DC2024-06-0020. The CARE shall also determine the total project cost which shall be executed within 12 months from actual receipt of the fund transfer from the DOE. Attached are the minimum requirements for the scope and deliverables of each thematic area which shall serve as the basis of the proponents to propose their research activities as CARE.

Section 4. CARE Certificate. All recognized CARE by the DOE will be issued with a Certificate duly signed by the CARE Steering Committee Chairperson. The Certificate shall be based on the attached template (Annex B).

Section 5. Timeline and CARE Milestones. All activities of CARE for CY2026 shall adhere to the following milestones:

31 December 2025	**Deadline of Submission of Proposals to the DOE**
27 February 2026	**Notification of Approved and Accepted Proposals**
March - June 2026	**Processing of MOA and Fund Transfer Requirements**
July 2026 - July 2027	**Implementation of CY2026 Proposals**

Section 6. Non-Receipt of CARE Proposals. Should the CARE - Technical Working Group for Energy Efficiency and Conservation (TWG for EEC) shall not receive any proposal on any or each of the thematic areas, the CARE - TWG may determine a CARE that will execute its research/study requirements in line with current research agenda and needs of the DOE.

Section 7. Funding of CARE Projects. Each project proposal may be funded with an amount not exceeding Two Million Five Hundred Pesos (PHP2,500,000.00), subject to availability of funds and in line with the existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

For any concerns, HEIs and relevant stakeholders may contact the DOE CARE - TWG for EEC through the EEC Program Management and Technology Promotion Division (EPMPD) of the Energy Utilization Management Bureau (EUMB) through telephone numbers (02) 8479-2900 local 214 or email at doe.epmpd@gmail.com.

For information and guidance.

DIR. PATRICK T. AQUINO, CESO III
Director
Energy Utilization Management Bureau

ANNEX A

The following are the minimum requirements for the scope, goals, and deliverables of each thematic area, which shall serve as the basis for the proponents of the proposed research activities as CARE.

1. Energy Performance Benchmarking in the Commercial and Industrial Sector

Scope:
- Collect and analyze energy consumption data from a representative sample of commercial and industrial organizations.
- Develop standardized energy performance metrics and benchmarks tailored for various subsectors.
- Establish a baseline for energy efficiency performance to measure improvements over time.

Goals:
- Enable organizations to assess their energy efficiency relative to industry benchmarks.
- Promote data-driven energy management practices.
- Provide actionable insights to reduce energy consumption and costs.

Deliverables:
- Comprehensive report on energy consumption data and analysis.
- Standardized benchmarking framework and metrics guidelines.
- Recommendations for continuous monitoring and improvement.

2. Market Assessment of Energy Efficient Technologies (ECPs)

Scope:
- Conduct market research to map current availability, adoption rates, and penetration of energy-efficient products and equipment.
- Identify barriers (economic, technical, regulatory) limiting adoption.
- Analyze consumer behavior and market trends.

Goals:
- Understand market dynamics affecting energy-efficient technology uptake.
- Highlight opportunities for market growth and policy interventions.
- Inform stakeholders on effective strategies to increase adoption.

Deliverables:
- Market assessment report including SWOT analysis.
- Identification of key barriers and enablers.
- Policy and market development recommendations.

3. Training Regulation Development for Energy Efficiency (EE) Practitioners

Scope:
- Review existing DOE issuances related to EE practitioners.
- Develop a comprehensive training framework covering required skills, qualifications, and competencies.
- Formulate regulatory standards for certification, accreditation, and ongoing professional development.

Goals:
- Standardize EE practitioner qualifications nationally.
- Enhance the quality and effectiveness of energy efficiency services.
- Ensure compliance with evolving EE policies and regulations.

Deliverables:
- Draft training regulation document aligned with DOE standards.
- Curriculum framework and competency matrix for EE practitioners.
- Implementation and enforcement plan for the regulation.

4. Emerging Energy Technologies

Scope:
- Identify and research promising emerging energy technologies with potential for significant efficiency gains.
- Design and conduct pilot projects to test feasibility and performance.
- Develop implementation strategies for scaling up successful technologies.

Goals:
- Accelerate adoption of innovative energy solutions.
- Reduce energy consumption and environmental impact through advanced technologies.
- Provide evidence-based recommendations for policy and industry adoption.

Deliverables:
- Research reports on emerging technologies and their potential.
- Pilot project results and case studies.
- Strategic roadmap for integration and scaling of emerging technologies.