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Oman's Climate Strategy

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Oman aims to lead the Gulf transition toward green hydrogen as a primary source of energy consumption and export revenue. Strains on existing resources hinder this transformation, necessitating streamlined management of short-term climate mitigation projects, especially in coastal infrastructural areas under threat from rising sea levels. Through the comprehensive plan for economic and energy diversification laid out in Oman's Vision 2040 and its National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change (2020–2040), Oman aims to undergo a sustainable and robust transition toward green technologies while increasing local capacity by activating climate-oriented civil society groups.

See full article and sources:

Joy Arkeh and Nourane Awadallah, "Reforming for Resilience in Oman: Environmental Risk and Policy Capacity," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, September 12, 2025, <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2025/09/reforming-for-resilience-in-oman-environmental-risk-and-policy-capacity?lang=en>.

Oman's Challenges

- Dependence on hydrocarbons to meet domestic energy demands and reach a necessary trade surplus as fossil fuel exporters
- Agricultural sector vulnerability from water scarcity and increases in food demands due to rapid urbanization
- Shift toward green hydrogen siphoning desalinated water supply
- Threats to coastal desalination plants from rising sea levels
- Mounting fiscal pressures (public debt, youth unemployment) weakening the social contract and drawing external pressure from the IMF
- Lack of mandates (only Royal Decrees No. 46 and 48) involving nongovernmental actors

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Oman's Opportunities

- Increase short- and long-term GHG emission targets through international climate financing funneled into developing green hydrogen export market
- Improve the effectiveness of water management, sustainable agriculture, and environmental protection programs by expanding financial capacity and granting more autonomy to local actors
- Adopt mitigative practices and technologies along coastal population and desalination centers to protect vital infrastructure
- Enable civil society organizations as essential actors in large-scale capacity-building projects and community engagement campaigns

Policy Recommendations

- Implement timelines into existing institutional mandates as an accountability measure against non-compliance cases
- Draw from the frameworks outlined in Royal Decrees No. 114 and 29 and Ministerial Decision No. 30, which show sufficient oversight measures to bolster human capacity through established management structures and objectives
- Expand training programs to qualify citizens for sustainable professional and technical positions, as exemplified by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals under Royal Decree No. 8



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