

# ENERGY TRANSITION DIALOGUES INSIGHTS



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**Anita Nouri**

**CEO**

**Green Energy Solutions & Sustainability LLC**

The energy sector can be an enabler of circularity. But it requires quite strong policies and regulations. And at present, I do not believe that there is an appetite to regulate the oil and gas industry in the region, especially as it is such a strong component of the economy.

Another major hurdle in achieving circularity, specifically when it comes to plastic, is changing consumer behavior. This must change if industry is to change. Right now, even if industry is willing to shift, consumers' demand means you still end up with a mountain of plastic waste. There is so much we can recycle, so we must incentivize and educate consumers.

COP26 was not as productive as we all hoped and this has disrupted some of the initiatives that could be groundbreaking in achieving circularity, especially in the Middle East. An example is clean development mechanism (CDM) projects that aim to reduce CO2 emissions. These projects cannot reach their objectives without proper carbon markets and a carbon price. ■

*Paraphrased comments\**

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