

EMIRATES GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT: JUNE 2020



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Statement on Continued Support

Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) is proud to continue extending its full support and engagement with the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and its ten principles. We pledge to continue supporting the advancement of these principles which address human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and we are committed to conveying information and development to our members and community stakeholders through our events, initiatives, and operations. As a local member-driven organization in the United Arab Emirates, we are dedicated to upholding accountability and transparency and proud to serve as a participant in the Global Compact since 2014.

In its third edition, the Communication on Engagement (COE) submitted by EmiratesGBC to the UNGC aims to demonstrate continued progress in our activities and services. In addition to adhering to the UNGC's ten principles, EmiratesGBC establishes annual priority areas, a process which includes closely examining the Council's alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UAE's Vision 2021, in order to develop a strategic roadmap for sustainable development and economic diversification. This process supports our commitment and contribution to the global sustainability agenda as well as the UAE's national priorities. The priority areas align with both national and international agendas and are presented in this report.

The SDGs form part of the UN's 2030 Development Agenda titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," however they are an integral catalyst in the agenda as they emphasize sustainable and environmentally conscious social and economic development targets. Several of the SDGs promote the case for responsible, energy efficient, sustainable building practices that support the conservation of our planet by reducing reliance on high energy and water consumption. In line with our own principles, and as the new Chair of EmiratesGBC, my team and I will ensure that the Council remains dedicated to upholding accountability and transparency in its sustainable goals so that serves as a successful precedent for the local and regional industry. We continue to remain proud participants of the Global Compact.

H.E. Dr Ali Al Jassim

Chair, Emirates Green Building Council

Introduction

The Impact of a Country's Growth and Development



The United Arab Emirates was founded in 1971 and its history of development involves a steady trajectory of growth and progress in nearly every sector of urban development. This growth was evidently fuelled by the wealth brought in from the global trade of oil; however, the corresponding economy and foreign investment created by this wealth also provided space for the market expansion of lateral internal economies such as housing, tourism, infrastructure, and commerce. The new market void was rapidly filled up by the exponential growth in the country's population leading to further growth in the industrial and service sectors. It is estimated that between 1965 and 2013, the UAE's population increased by 6280%, with 85% of its residents residing in urban developments and situated mainly in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.¹

The demands of a growing population coupled with demand for a high standard of living also enabled Dubai's economy to build a strong niche in the service and tourism sector which flourished and led to the construction of several shopping malls, centres, and entertainment venues. Additionally, the population's need for housing was also tied with the need for schools, hospitals, roads, and transportation facilities, resulting in a development boom that has seen steady upward growth for several years. Over time, several of the nation's seven Emirates have undergone a thorough transformation: from arid desert to a "political, economic, and financial success story"².

The synergistic growth and the ensuing demand for water and energy has shown that over the years, while the UAE experienced financial prosperity, its environment and local resources were put under immense strain. Change was forthcoming in the UAE though as leaders have grown more aware of the environmental and economic consequences of business-as-usual. Environment and sustainability are now pillars of focus in national and local strategies, with ambitious plans and targets in place.

¹ Dubaifaqs; World Bank 2014 Doing Business Report; World Bank Urban population %, 2012.

² Mayo, A.; Nohria, N.; Mendhro, U.; Cromwell, J. 2010

Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC)

Mission and Vision

EmiratesGBC was formed in 2006 with the goal of advancing green building principles in the UAE that would help to protect the environment and promote sustainability. Since its inception, the Council has evolved its mission and vision and today the EmiratesGBC functions as a recognized industry platform for all stakeholders (see Fig. 1) in the building industry supply chain, whereby they can meet, discuss, interact, and exchange groundbreaking ideas and help promote a sustainable built environment. EmiratesGBC serves the UAE as:

- a) a prime driver and facilitator of UAE's position and aspiration to be a global leader for sustainability of the built environment, and
- b) a catalyst for collaboration and a hub for excellence to promote sustainability of the built environment in the UAE.

The above forms EmiratesGBC's **Vision** and **Mission** respectively.

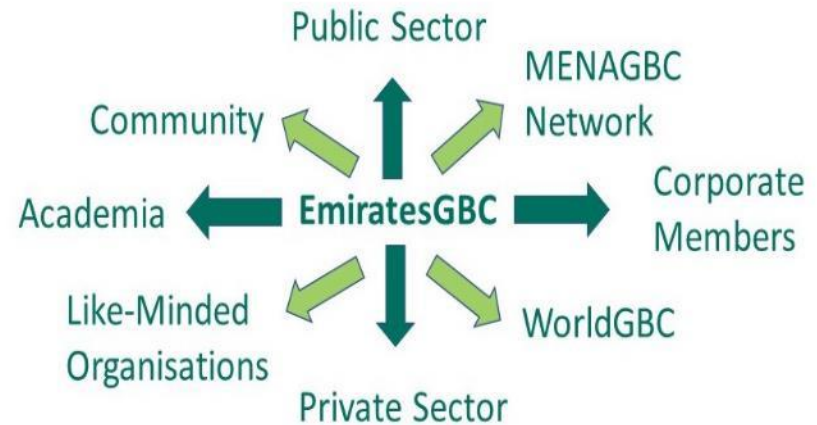


Figure 1. The stakeholders EmiratesGBC serves to connect within the region.

Formation History

In 2002 and 2003, significant changes began to occur within the UAE: the steady growth and development of the previous decades had sped up suddenly and at an unprecedented level. Massive construction projects were taking hold of available land and towering skyscrapers were sprouting quickly.

Soon discussions on sustainability and green buildings started to take place, and the need for a focused institution was evident from the outset, seeding the concept of a Green Building Council. The discussions systematically formed the founding members whose collaboration led to the formation of the Emirates Green Building Council.

Initial Development

The effort to streamline the organization’s logistics culminated with the official launch of EmiratesGBC in July 2006 – a fledgling operation at the time but one that had already generated substantial buzz in the building construction and design industry.

EmiratesGBC then embarked on an extensive outreach campaign building momentum from the strong interest within the industry. Most leading companies within the construction industry were approached including developers, material providers, MEP practitioners, as well as financial institutions. Since that time, EmiratesGBC has grown a strong membership base of corporate and individual members.

Partnerships

Recognizing the importance of linking local efforts with the global sustainability movement, EmiratesGBC has been involved in several global programs and initiatives over the years. A noteworthy mention is EmiratesGBC’s membership with World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) since 2006, an umbrella organization to network and share knowledge with green building councils across the globe. EmiratesGBC is the first Established GBC of WorldGBC in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the eighth GBC globally. Membership includes participation in global projects and leveraged involvement in the WorldGBC Board of Directors and Regional Network.

In June 2014, EmiratesGBC successfully took steps to become a participant to the UN Global Compact. Since that time,

Emirates Green Building Council | Communication on Engagement 2020

EmiratesGBC has established other fruitful global partnerships and commitments with organizations such as World Resources Institute, International Living Future Institute and Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors, to name a few.

In addition to global partnerships, the Council has committed to the MENA region by taking a leading role in its officiated partnerships with the WorldGBC’s MENA Green Building Council Network. These partnerships are particularly highlighted under the Annual MENA Green Building Awards, one of EmiratesGBC’s flagship events, organized by EmiratesGBC and held in partnership with six MENA GBCs.



MOU renewal with American University Sharjah, February 2020

The Council has also established many beneficial local partnerships with NGOs, government authorities, and academic institutions to strengthen its position strategically and further expand its reach and offerings. See Table 1 for a complete list of partners. These

strategic partnerships allow the Council to have a stronger position in influencing green building regulations and raising awareness on critical sustainability topics in the building industry. Many of these partnerships also helped form the training ground through which the Council and its members currently appreciate a myriad choice of educational activities and events, such as the Technical Workshops, an Annual Congress, Focus Days and Seminars and the aforementioned Annual Awards.

ISO Certification

EmiratesGBC obtained ISO Certification 9001-2008 and 14001-2004 in September 2011 and March 2013, respectively, and has maintained the certifications each year since with successful transition in 2018 to the new standards 9001:2015 and 14001:2015, thus further cementing the credibility of the Council and its commitment to quality in its operations and environmental management.

Organizational Structure & Governance

The organizational structure is laid out in the EmiratesGBC bylaws, which serves as the framework for which the Council operates. It comprises a membership structure that includes both corporate and individual members. EmiratesGBC is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of founding members, corporate member organizations and professionals in the United Arab Emirates covering a range of sectors in the building industry. The Board

meets quarterly and oversees the overarching direction and strategy of the Council.

Since 2011, the Council has experienced a steady growth in its office personnel. With its staff retention rates stable and the number of staff maintained, the EmiratesGBC office has been able to more effectively engage the Council's members, expand its programs, and produce more consistent offerings. The team includes roles covering Education & Awareness, Stakeholder Engagement & Communications, Technical and Administrative. EmiratesGBC fully implements the UAE labour law, entitling employees to medical insurance, annual leave, annual flights to their home countries and gratuity at the end of their service.

The current office team of seven originates from five different countries, and this diversity is highly valued and embraced. Each employee is treated fairly and with respect to the different backgrounds and experiences they bring with them. Professional development and capacity building opportunities are encouraged and made available whenever possible.



EmiratesGBC Office Team October 2019

Since 2014, EmiratesGBC has a Code of Conduct in place that is signed by its Board of Directors, Corporate and Individual Members, and Office Staff. The EmiratesGBC Code of Conduct covers the following:

1. Members and Partners will be treated fairly and without discrimination.
2. Every person will be treated with honesty, respect, and dignity.
3. UAE culture and custom will be respected.
4. Accept accountability and responsibility for one's own actions.
5. Abide by the laws and regulations of the UAE.
6. Be honest in internal and external communications with stakeholders and the public.

7. Treat non-public information with confidentiality and protect it from misuse.
8. Maintain accuracy in the book-keeping and reporting of EmiratesGBC's operations and deliverables.
9. Promote a safe and healthy work environment.
10. Promote integrity and ethics, adhering strictly to anti-corruption principles.

Memberships

Emirates Green Building Council is a membership-driven organization comprising industry professionals dedicated to green building solutions and practices. Since its inception in 2006, EmiratesGBC has experienced mostly stable membership, which is reflective of current market conditions. Members include developers, consultants, engineers, architects, interior designers, contractors, environmentalists, facilities management professionals, manufacturers, suppliers, universities, and banks (Figure 2).

The Council offers a purposed set of benefits which cater to the needs of the building industry in the UAE. Membership advantages include marketing benefits that offer wide exposure in leading media outlets; priority to join EmiratesGBC events and networking opportunities through discounted or complimentary offerings; speaking slots at EmiratesGBC events; learning and development opportunities through trainings and active participation in the latest EmiratesGBC projects and programs.

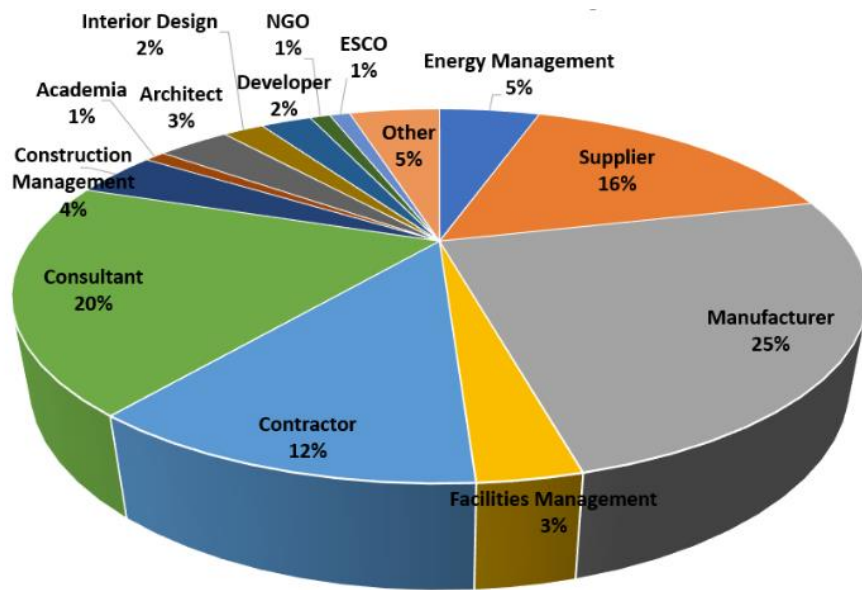


Figure 2 Membership distribution by business type

Communications

EmiratesGBC shares industry information with a growing base of subscribers who have opted to receive news and updates from the Council. This includes other green building councils as well as industry professionals from the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region, and around the globe. Subscribers receive industry news and announcements from EmiratesGBC regularly, including the monthly newsletter. As of June 2020, the Council has an email distribution list of over 3,900 people.

In addition to its email communication, the Council also reaches out to professional and community audiences through its active social media channels. EmiratesGBC has four active social media accounts, which include LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. The social media feeds are used to share industry news on regulations and best practices and provide updates on the Council's activities and upcoming events. The Council has over 10,000 followers in all its social media channels combined.

EmiratesGBC Initiatives

Cooperative Agreements

EmiratesGBC has reached out and forged strategic partnerships with governmental and non-governmental entities in the region through cooperative efforts and signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). The partnerships serve to not only demonstrate cooperation with those who share and support EmiratesGBC's vision, but also to build the necessary groundwork of environmentally motivated initiatives that can help scale up new environmentally friendly regulations and policies.

The following table lists entities that are considered strategic partners with EmiratesGBC:

| Government | Semi-Government/Private | NGOs | Academia |
|--|--|--|---|
| Abu Dhabi Dept of Urban Planning and Municipalities | Masdar | Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry | UAE University |
| Emirates Standardization & Metrology Authority | Bionova Ltd (One Click LCA Planetary) | Emirates Environmental Group | Rochester Institute of Technology - Dubai |
| Dubai Central Laboratory (Dubai Municipality) | Galadari Advocates | Middle East Facilities Management Association | American University of Sharjah |
| Ajman Municipality | KPMG | Emirates Nature – in association with WWF | Heriot-Watt University-Dubai |
| Ajman Tourism & Development Authority | Emaar Hospitality Group | Foundation for Environmental Education | RAK Research and Innovation Centre |
| Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (ADQCC) | Rove Hotels | French Business Council | Khalifa University |
| Ministry of Infrastructure Development | TIME Hotels | Clean Energy Business Council | |
| Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE) | | Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors MENA (RICS) | |
| Dubai Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) | | GRESB | |
| Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation | | Environment Center for Arab Towns (ECAT) | |
| Ras Al Khaimah Municipality | | Class Of Your Own | |
| Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Sharjah | | International Living Future Institute | |
| Royal Danish Consulate | | USGBC/GBCI | |

Table 1. List of EmiratesGBC strategic partnerships established through MOUs.

EmiratesGBC Technical Programs

With support from many of its strategic partners, EmiratesGBC has established several programs and projects that have led to or are leading to greater progress towards achieving the Council's vision and mission. The programs are both technical and educational and all aim to further drive sustainability and green building practices in the UAE and across the region.

EmiratesGBC Energy Efficiency Program

Addressing the energy performance of existing buildings in the UAE, EmiratesGBC launched its Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) in 2014 as a market-influencing and capacity building platform aiming to facilitate the reduction of the UAE's carbon footprint through energy efficiency retrofits of existing buildings.

The EEP includes an online database that serves to connect all stakeholders in the energy efficiency market and streamline the fragmented energy retrofit industry. Through the EEP, energy consultants more effectively connect with contractors, equipment vendors, facility management companies, and other players in the private sector. Since 2016, the EEP has consistently run townhalls and workshops to address current trends and regulations that impact energy efficiency in the built environment.

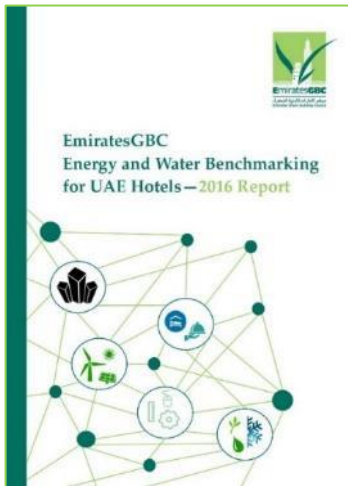
Under the EEP umbrella, EmiratesGBC published its first set of Technical Guidelines in June 2015, which provides energy retrofit solutions for existing buildings in the UAE. The *EmiratesGBC Technical Guidelines for Retrofitting Existing Buildings* is a

comprehensive set of instructions that guide industry professionals and end-users on the current processes, technologies, and standards in place, for the successful energy efficient retrofit of existing buildings. The Technical Guidelines are available in both English and Arabic and obtainable through the EmiratesGBC office.



In late 2019, EmiratesGBC initiated a Deep Retrofit Study to help explore solutions and approaches to retrofiting buildings that go beyond current renovation programs to achieve greater energy and financial savings. The study results will be published later in 2020 and aim to support the industry by understanding the potential of deep retrofits and assess the associated market expectations, readiness, challenges, and opportunities.

Benchmarking Program



The EmiratesGBC Benchmarking Program was launched in 2016 with focus on energy and water performance of buildings in the UAE hospitality sector to apply a specific benchmarking methodology, with the objective of fine-tuning and replicating processes to other critical sectors and building typologies in the future.

The 2016 Hospitality Benchmarking Project was the first phase of the

EmiratesGBC Benchmarking Program and set out to assist hotels in the UAE to reduce their carbon footprint by benchmarking their consumption against similar properties in the country and equipping them with the necessary information to improve their water and energy performances.

Forty-six hotel properties across the UAE contributed to the Hotel Benchmarking report by providing information on the general, physical, and operational characteristics of their property.

Phase 2 of EmiratesGBC’s Benchmarking Program aligned with the Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA), a public-private collaboration that turns global expertise into action to accelerate local government implementation of building efficiency policies and programs. The initiative is one of the six assessment tools under the UN program, Sustainable Energy for All, and aims to double the

global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. Dubai was the first city in the Middle East committed to the BEA. Dubai Supreme Council of Energy is the BEA City Representative and EmiratesGBC is the appointed BEA City Liaison. Under this initiative, EmiratesGBC benchmarked the energy performance of over 100 buildings in Dubai on select building types (hotels, schools and shopping malls) and published the findings in January 2019.

Green Building Market Briefs

EmiratesGBC annually publishes the Green Building Market City Briefs for Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The briefs highlight the green building policies in both Emirates and show evidence of the great progresses and achievements from the implemented initiatives that promote sustainable development in the country.



Up to 2017, the city briefs were in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC). Subsequent briefs were published solely by EmiratesGBC. A 2020 Brief is currently under progress and will be a nation-wide brief to highlight progress across the UAE.

Net Zero Centre of Excellence

Emirates Green Building Council launched the Net Zero Centre of Excellence in 2018 as a think tank and accelerator to advance net zero carbon buildings in the UAE as part of its commitment to World Green Building Council's global Advancing Net Zero Project. The program aims to provide a platform for government, academia, civil society and the private sector to learn and share knowledge on net zero buildings, support future building regulations and the industry towards decarbonization of the building sector by the global timeline of 2050, offer tools and resources to advance the net zero movement in the UAE.

Following the 2017 launch of its Defining Nearly Zero Energy Buildings in the UAE publication, EmiratesGBC partnered with the International Living Future Institute (ILFI) in December 2018 on the adaptation of ILFI's Zero Energy (ZE) and Zero Carbon (ZC) certifications for buildings in the UAE market. The partnership also raises awareness around the ZE and ZC certificates among industry stakeholders, with the Council acting as the exclusive auditor of the two certifications in UAE.

In April 2020, EmiratesGBC partnered with Bionova Ltd, developer of One Click LCA, on raising awareness around embodied carbon with an objective of transforming the market towards low carbon design, construction, and manufacturing practices. Through the partnership, Bionova is offering the One Click LCA Planetary free of charge for companies in the UAE.

Emirates Coalition for Green Schools

In November 2017, EmiratesGBC launched the Emirates Coalition for Green Schools, a national initiative to bring together the UAE's strongest advocates to create a national platform for the proliferation of green schools in the UAE. The Emirates Coalition for Green Schools aims to ensure that every child in the UAE learns in a green school within this generation. The Emirates Coalition focus ranges from K-12 up to tertiary level institutes.

In February 2018, the Coalition published its first digital whitepaper titled: *State of Our Schools*. The report established a definition of green schools in the UAE and identified stakeholders which could effectively determine a course of action for the Emirates Coalition for Green Schools.

In November 2018, EmiratesGBC conducted a roundtable focused on Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in schools. The discussion culminated in a consensus that there needs to be more awareness among key stakeholders and a genuine willingness to treat the root cause of the issue. The roundtable also demonstrated that there is limited research and data on IAQ in UAE schools.

In November 2019, EmiratesGBC partnered with Saint Gobain to conduct an IAQ Project in a UAE school. The project evaluated the indoor air quality of a representative school for 4 days in early 2020 by taking continuous and active sampling measurements of IAQ parameters. The results are due for publication in Q4 of 2020.

Green Key Program



Green Key

Green Key is an international sustainability certification program for hotels and accommodations that is globally managed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). As a leading standard of excellence in the field of environmental responsibility and sustainable operation within the tourism industry, the eco-label is awarded to properties that

demonstrate adherence to strict criteria as stipulated by FEE.

EmiratesGBC is the National Operator of the Green Key certification in the United Arab Emirates since 2013. EmiratesGBC plays an active role in growing the certification program in the UAE and encouraging hotels and property chains to take part in increasing their sustainability efforts. In May 2018 there were over 35 certified hotels in UAE under Green Key. By May 2020, the number of certified properties has reached to 42 hotels.

Green Key is recognised by the World Tourism Organisation and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and is the largest global eco-label relating to accommodation. Green Key is a leading standard of excellence in the field of sustainable tourism, guiding tourism establishments in doing their part in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN.

The Green Key program is well-aligned with the Council's efforts to reach out to the UAE hospitality industry to help hotel properties reduce their carbon footprint via energy benchmarking and tailored trainings for hotel properties and hospitality professionals and authorities.

EmiratesGBC Education & Awareness

Fostering knowledge development and capacity building within the UAE community, EmiratesGBC has developed a wide range of educational events related to sustainability and the concept and promotion of green buildings and sustainable development. These activities are designed to provide useful information and learning forums for green building approaches, techniques and services.

Annual Congress

The first Annual EmiratesGBC Congress was held in 2012, and the running theme was 'Innovations in Sustainability'. The 2-day Congress was a milestone for EmiratesGBC, showing it had the resources and support to develop and carry out such an important high-level event, one of the few conferences in the UAE organized by a non-commercial organization focusing on green buildings.

Each year since, the Annual EmiratesGBC Congress has been a flagship event that continues to grow and draw on local, regional



Andrea Di Gregorio, Director, Energy Efficiency & Renewables Administration in Ras Al Khaimah, giving the opening address at the 8th Annual Congress, May 2019.

and international participants. The Congress is an educational platform for discussing trends in green buildings and sustainability on building and city-level scale. It has been used for local government bodies to make new announcements to the building and construction industry and for international organizations to link their work to the region, particularly important for the Middle East that continues to mature in its influence and importance.

The most recent Annual Congress held in May 2019 ran on the theme, Circling in on Zero: Circular Economy in the Built Environment, with discussions that focused on how a circular economy approach within the building and construction sector can support the UAE to decarbonise and achieve the sustainable development goals of Vision 2021.

Annual Awards

The EmiratesGBC Annual Awards Program honours companies that demonstrate innovation, leadership, and a clear implementation of sustainable design, construction and/or operation of buildings and structures.

Its goal is to establish a regional model for the sustainable built environment that is world-class and replicable. Announced in 2012 alongside the Annual Congress and launched in 2013, the Annual EmiratesGBC Awards was another milestone for EmiratesGBC. It gained attention as the awards platform 'for the industry by an industry', which increases its credibility. Also contributing to this credibility and transparency is an external auditor who is brought on board each year to audit the judging and awarding process.

The Awards are presented every year to professional categories such as Green Building of the Year, Training Initiative of the Year, Green Building Product/Material of the Year, to name a few. A Student Excellence Award is also presented to a student from a local university who has shown exceptional research work in the field of green building, design or engineering.



Award Winners from the 2019 MENA Green Building Awards

During the 2016 Awards Ceremony, the Annual EmiratesGBC Awards was announced to be renamed as the Annual MENA Green Building Awards. The rebranding better reflected the regional nature and scope of the Awards program.

Since then, the Annual MENA Green Building Awards re held in partnership with other MENA Green Building Councils (JordanGBC, LebanonGBC, EgyptGBC, KuwaitGBC, MoroccoGBC, PalestineGBC) with endorsement by WorldGBC.

Over the years, the Annual MENA Green Building awards have featured newer categories to align with major developments and trends in the sustainable building and construction and acknowledge innovators and leaders excelling in their fields. In 2020, the MENA Awards will feature new categories such as Net Zero Building Project of the Year, Healthy Spaces Project of the Year, Consultant of the Year, and Green SME of the Year.

Networking Events

Since 2009, EmiratesGBC has also been hosting networking events that are open to both members and non-members. The networking events feature a short presentation or panel discussion about a relevant building topic, followed by a short Q&A session and networking opportunity. Topics covered in past events include discussions on green economies, Dubai EXPO, waste management, health and wellbeing, building energy efficiency, sustainable housing and net zero buildings, to name just a few.

Since its formation, the Council has hosted over 200 events with a total audience of more than 4000 people.

Seminars and Focus Day Forums

EmiratesGBC provides an active platform of seminars and focus forums that promote education and awareness. These events go into more depth on a topic than the format of Networking Events and provide perspectives from various industry sectors and disciplines, looking closely at:

- a) Local and industry regulations in sustainable building, construction, and facility management,

- b) New and existing regional policies related to energy efficiency; and
- c) Innovative solutions for the enhancement of sustainable design in the built environment.

Building Tours

In addition to the above activities, EmiratesGBC also facilitates building tours of local sustainably built structures to offer first-hand knowledge exchange and share lessons learned as well as make available information on new and existing building certifications.



EmiratesGBC members at The Sustainable City tour in Dubai

Prior to 2018, EmiratesGBC members enjoyed building tours of high-profile sustainable landmark facilities such as the DEWA LEED Platinum Headquarters, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, Masdar City, Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Centre, and the Autonomous House at Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre.

More recently, Council members have toured the following sustainable facilities: Summertown Office, Solar Decathlon Competitor Village, The Sustainable City, Cundall Office (WELL registered project), and the Expo2020 construction site.

Training Programs

As early as 2007, EmiratesGBC provided training courses on the USGBC Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) rating systems, and later in 2013 courses for Certified Energy Manager (CEM), and Certified Energy Auditor qualifications were offered in partnership with British University in Dubai (BUiD) and the Association of Energy Engineers.



Based on the EmiratesGBC Technical Guidelines for Retrofitting Existing Buildings which serve as the course textbook, EmiratesGBC launched its Building Retrofit Training (BRT) Program in 2017, in partnership with Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE) and Masdar. The BRT is a certification course designed to teach the

fundamentals of building retrofit. Under it, courses are offered at two levels: Introductory and Advanced. Since its launch, 77 professionals have completed the Intro BRT course and 37 professionals have completed the Advanced course. 28 professionals have passed the examination and hold the title of certified Building Retrofit Specialist.

Technical Workshops

EmiratesGBC began its technical workshop program in 2012 and has since hosted monthly workshops at its office headquarters in Dubai and as online webinars since March 2020. Over 1,300 professionals have taken part in in the workshops to date, serving as a platform to exchange information and share experience and knowledge. Discussions on various topics are facilitated by industry representatives from the EmiratesGBC membership pool and reflect contemporary trends in sustainability.



Monthly technical workshop - January 2020

Workshops are open complimentary to EmiratesGBC members and partners, and past workshops have covered a wide range of building industry topics from wastewater treatment & reuse to passive environmental design and have also provided technical overviews of new and current sustainable regulations in the UAE. The graph below offers a comparison between the number of workshops hosted between 2012 and May 2020 and the number of attendees.

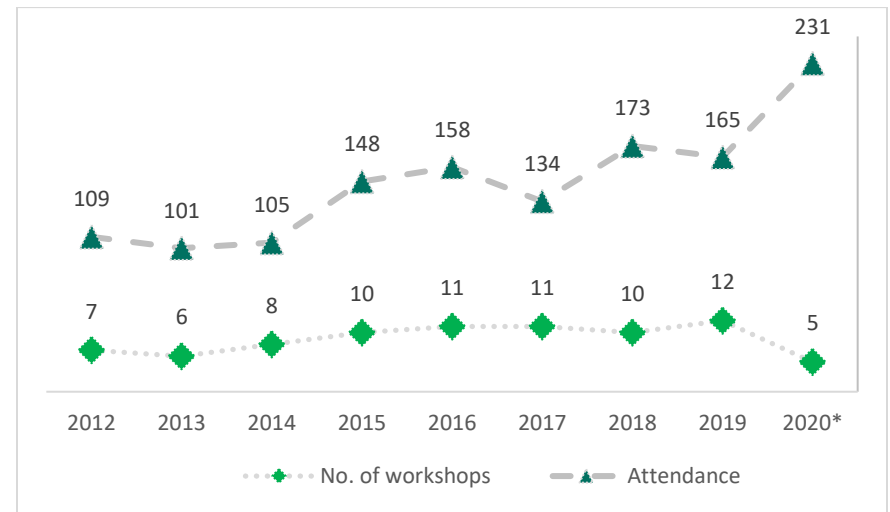


Figure 3 Attendance at EmiratesGBC technical workshops.

*Attendance till May 2020, inclusive of Technical Webinars

Technical Webinars

In March 2020, EmiratesGBC officially launched its #EGBCWebinars initiative. During the COVID19 pandemic lockdown, the Council’s team took the disruption as an opportunity to branch out its

education and knowledge-sharing events to a wider regional and global audience. The effort has been widely successful. To date, the Council has hosted 9 webinars independently as well as jointly with partners GBCI, USGBC, WorldGBC and Bionova. With the success of the platform, the Council is planning on livestreaming and recording more knowledge-sharing events including the 2020 Annual EmiratesGBC Congress.

Conferences and Exhibitions

With growing awareness of sustainable development, several conferences and exhibitions have been hosted in the UAE and the MENA region that endorse the vision of UAE leaders for a sustainable built environment, diversification of the energy sector, and effective demand side management. Participating in and attending these conferences and exhibitions allows EmiratesGBC to present the Council's activities and events, highlight membership benefits and showcase the latest improvements made by the local authorities in terms of green regulations and awareness. They also allow EmiratesGBC to share its expertise from within to present on important topics related to sustainable development.

Since 2012, EmiratesGBC has participated in over 120 conferences and exhibitions.



EmiratesGBC Exhibition Stand at World Future Energy Summit

Conclusion

When EmiratesGBC was formed in 2006, the term ‘green building’ was still new among building professionals in the UAE as well as the MENA region. Today, however, Emirates Green Building Council and sustainability have become mainstream terms in the UAE building and construction sectors.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum galvanised the green building momentum in 2007 by mandating that all new construction in Dubai should measure up to green standards. To support the nation’s strong leadership EmiratesGBC has since greatly enabled knowledge and collaboration by promoting awareness and education through its platform.

In 2009, EmiratesGBC Board members revived the Council’s mission by emphasising EmiratesGBC’s purpose as an education portal and knowledge hub for all industry stakeholders, offering a balanced view that upholds global and regional principles of sustainability and conservation. As the previous sections highlight, Emirates Green Building Council has embarked on that path with success.

With thousands of individuals reached through events, outreach campaigns, and technical workshops and programs, EmiratesGBC has and continues to serve its mission of providing a dedicated platform where industry leaders and stakeholders can collaborate on sustainable solutions.

Driven by current policy measures, EmiratesGBC’s well-informed stakeholders have further gone on to promote sustainable practices across the country.

EmiratesGBC’s continued efforts to make the UAE a leader for the region’s sustainable goals and initiatives have been effectively achieved, largely due to the synergistic overlapping of its mission with the sustainability goals of the UAE government.



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