

The City of Dubai
Communication on Engagement

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Introduction on the City of Dubai¹



Dubai is the second largest emirate of the seven United Arab Emirates. In recent decades, Dubai has witnessed a tremendous development and acquired a prestigious global reputation because of the ease and flexibility of its laws and policies, its encouragement for investment and its high standard of living, security and stability. Dubai has now become a hub for major international companies running their businesses in the Middle East, due to the favorable conditions the government has strived to create. Dubai's population reached 3,411,200 at the end of 2020 as per Dubai Statistics Centre.

The emirate's economy does not depend solely on oil as a major source of income, but rather on boosting an economy that is based on industry, tourism, real estate and hosting events and exhibitions. Most recently Dubai hosted EXPO 2020 Dubai, the first world EXPO to be held in the Middle East. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dubai successfully inaugurated the EXPO in 2021 creating a global platform for policy makers, businesses and individuals to come together and plan the landscape of the post pandemic era.

¹ <https://tec.gov.ae/en/web/tec/government-of-dubai>

The emirate also has first-class infrastructure including two international airports: Dubai International Airport, the world's number one airport for international passengers, and Al Maktoum Airport located in the southern part of the city.

Dubai also features Jebel Ali Port, the world's largest man-made harbour and one of the most important re-export centres in the world. Dubai also owns modern industrial zones, as well as economic free zones including: Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai Silicon Oasis, Dubai Airport Free Zone, Dubai Media City, Dubai Internet City, Dubai International Academic City and Knowledge Village, in addition to prestigious local and international universities and institutes attended by students from across the world.

The emirate boasts a first-class health services sector in public and private hospitals, and Dubai Healthcare City, which is a specialised medical city, regarded as a prestigious destination for medical tourism. During the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UAE took early precautionary measures to control the spread of the virus and to ensure the provision of first-class care to those infected. In early 2021, the government launched a campaign to provide the COVID-19 vaccine for its citizens and residents. By early 2022, about 23,937,141 vaccine doses were administered in the UAE. The percentage of eligible population who received one dose is 100%.²

² <https://covid19.ncema.gov.ae/en>

Sustainable Development



Dubai's commitment to protecting the environment and preserving natural resources and sustainable development is in line with the aspirations of the UAE wise leadership. All our strategies and business plans are guided by the vision and directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Dubai is implementing ambitious national strategies and plans, including UAE Centennial 2071, Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan among others to position Dubai as a global destination across various fields. The 50-Year Charter launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed Al Maktoum to celebrate 50 years of assuming his first official post in government, outlines the government's commitment to improve the quality of life, develop the community and ensure prosperity of its people. These commitments are further aligned with and guided by Dubai's Eight Principles of Governance.

This ensures a balance between our social, economic, and environmental needs, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

Working towards sustainable development and a green economy, we have turned challenges and risks into promising opportunities.

2.1 Strategies

As part of its global responsibility, the UAE and Dubai in particular, has been at the forefront of the implementation of green strategies to support sustainability. The path to a sustainable future relies on green energy, sustainability and innovation. Dubai has made a series of remarkable achievements based on different strategies and initiatives, including the Dubai Plan 2030, the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Emissions Strategy 2050, the 50-Year Charter and many others.

Local Strategies

The 8 Principles of Dubai

The 8 Principles of Dubai were launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The Principles ensure sustainability of economic growth, make Dubai a global hub for creating economic opportunities, and attract the best minds and ideas.

The 50-Year Charter

The 50-Year Charter marks HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's 50 years of service to the country and includes what will be undertaken to improve the quality of life, develop the community of Dubai and ensure the future of generations to come.

Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050

The Dubai Clean Energy Strategy was launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, with an initial aim to produce 75 per cent of its energy requirements from clean sources by 2050. In 2021, Dubai announced its updated target to have 100% of its power generation installed capacity from clean sources. This is further aligned with Dubai's and the UAE's commitment to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050 (as per the Dubai Net Zero Emissions Strategy 2050). The strategy also aims to make Dubai a global centre of clean energy and green economy. It consists of five main pillars: infrastructure, legislation, funding, building capacities and skills, and environment friendly energy mix.

The infrastructure pillar includes initiatives such as the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which is the largest generator of solar energy in the world from a single location with a production capacity of 5,000 MW by 2030 and a total investment of AED 50 billion.

The legislation pillar focuses on the establishment of a legislative structure supporting clean energy policies in two phases.

The funding pillar includes the establishment of Dubai Green Fund worth of AED 100 billion which will contribute through its financial resources easy loans for investors in the clean energy sector in the emirate at reduced interest rates.

The fourth pillar aims to build human resources capabilities through global training programmes in the field of clean energy in cooperation with international organisations and institutes.

The fifth pillar is focused on creating an environment friendly energy mix with a large share of renewable energy coming from Solar.

Carbon Abatement Strategy 2021 and 2030

This strategy set the course of actions adopted by Dubai Government to manage Dubai's GHG emissions until 2021. It aimed to reduce carbon emissions by 16% by 2021, which it has exceeded with recorded emissions reduced by 33% by the end of 2020 compared to business as usual (BAU) for that year. Dubai is currently working on updating its plans and future reduction targets up to 2030 compared to BAU.

Dubai Paperless Strategy³

The Dubai Paperless Strategy aimed to build a perfectly integrated paperless government framework, and an administration that sets solid plans and strategies to secure people's happiness and develop their communities to meet the requirements of the sustainable cities of the future. The government aimed to become 100% paperless, eliminating over one billion papers annually used for government transactions. This target has been successfully achieved in 2021.

Dubai Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2021-2041⁴

The Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2021-2041 seeks to encourage innovation in waste management, recycling and energy conversion. The strategy seeks to implement long-term projects over the next 20 years by providing practical solutions to environmental challenges in line with the environmental objectives outlined in the government's agenda. It also aims to enhance efforts to enrich all vital areas and sectors. It complements a range of projects adopted by The Executive Council of Dubai in the areas of sustainability, environmental conservation, quality of life development and building a sustainable future.

The budget to implement this strategy is AED 74.5 billion with AED 70.5 billion as direct contribution from the private sector.

³ <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/initiatives/paperless>

⁴ <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/local-governments-strategies-and-plans/dubai-integrated-waste-management-strategy-2021-2041>

2.2 Awareness /Notable Sustainability Projects

Environmental Awareness⁵

Environmental awareness aims at developing the culture of the society regarding environment and promoting environmental behaviour of individuals, which helps to conserve and properly manage natural resources.

The bodies concerned with the environment protection organise educational campaigns at the emirate or federal level in coordination with the respective federal agency. This is further supported by the National Environmental Education and Awareness Strategy. The Environmental Awareness Strategy aims to:

1. Educate youth to drive the UAE to a sustainable future
2. Improve community's commitment to sustainability and environmental protection
3. Encourage the active involvement of businesses and industries in moving towards environmental sustainability
4. Engage key government stakeholders to support environmental sustainability
5. Ensure alignment and effectiveness of environmental education and awareness efforts in the UAE
6. Build adequate capabilities in the UAE to enable the delivery of the strategy.

In recent years, environmental education has become one of the salient elements in curriculum development in the United Arab Emirates. Accordingly, efforts have been directed to include environmental content in school curricula and textbooks.

Therefore, Ministry of Education has been keen to incorporate the environmental dimension in school curricula of all stages, by addressing the environmental issues that affect student's environment, in order to open the way for discussion on sustainable solutions.

In addition, Dubai annually celebrates the World Energy Day, which is an initiative endorsed by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed Al Maktoum with the aim to promote preservation of natural resources through conscious consumption and production.

Projects across the UAE, whether at governmental, corporate or private levels, are gaining more and more attention. Having recognised the enormity of the carbon footprint caused by heavy industry and a construction boom, the nation is looking to address the eco-concerns head on.

⁵ <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/federal-governments-strategies-and-plans/the-national-environmental-education-and-awareness-strategy>

Notable Initiatives on Smart and Sustainable Cities

SHAMS DUBAI

Shams Dubai was launched in 2015 to support the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make Dubai the smartest and happiest city in the world.

Shams Dubai encourages household and building owners to install grid connected photovoltaic systems at their premises, to generate green electricity from their solar panels, and feed any excess to the power grid under an attractive net metering scheme. As of the end of January 2022, a total installed capacity of more than 411 MW was connected.

SMART APPLICATIONS VIA SMART GRID AND METERS

The Smart Applications through Smart Devices provide various benefits and new features to our customers, enabling them to have detailed information about their current and historical consumption, along with predictive analysis. The data obtained automatically through smart devices is available for our customers to monitor and compare their actual consumption patterns for specific periods of time that helps them to ensure more sustainable consumption. The Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) has installed over 2 million electricity and water smart meters across Dubai.

THE EV GREEN CHARGER

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Green Charger Initiative was launched in support of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's vision to make Dubai the smartest and happiest city in the world and to promote green transportation in the city.

In 2015, DEWA developed and installed 100 EV Green Chargers in highly frequented areas across the city, such as government offices, airports, petrol stations, shopping malls, parks, commercial offices, clinics and hospitals, residential complexes and tourist attractions. Since then, the network has expanded to over 325 charging stations across Dubai.

MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM SOLAR PARK

The utilisation of solar energy constitutes an essential pillar of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Emissions Strategy 2050. The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park is one of the major projects that DEWA implements to achieve these promising strategies, as well as the Shams Dubai initiative.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, is the largest single site solar park (in terms of capacity) in the world, and is based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model. The park will combine both photovoltaic and concentrated solar power (CSP) technologies to achieve a total planned capacity of 5,000 MW by 2030. Located in Seih Al Dahal, Dubai, the solar park will reduce over 6.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year starting from 2030. The solar power projects that are currently operational at the Solar Park have a capacity of 1527 MW which were developed in phases. DEWA has successfully adopted an award winning Independent Power Producer (IPP) model for the development of the Solar Park.

GREEN BUILDING REGULATION OR AL SA'FAT⁶

Dubai's Sa'fat is the latest initiative driving sustainable developments in the UAE, making it mandatory to keep "green" practices in mind when constructing new buildings. The Dubai Municipality's 'Green Buildings Specifications' first became mandatory for new government buildings back in 2011. Starting in March 2014 these standards became mandatory for developers for all new buildings. These regulations primarily focus on ensuring that the way buildings are constructed, and how they function after they are built, economizes consumption of resources and encourages the welfare of its inhabitants. The practice of these standards has meant sustainability considerations such as the use of solar reflective materials and the inclusion of 'green' elements such as including indigenous species of plants or living or 'green' walls as eco-friendly architectural elements.

2.3 UNGC UAE Local Network

Starting from April 2019 a new Board of Directors has been reelected relaunching the UNGC UAE LN with an updated strategy and number of initiatives.

Through its efforts, the local network has increased participation by double and offered multiple capacity building opportunities to participants including COP Writing and methodologies on how to promote the SDGs. During the last couple of years, the local network held several successful programs and initiatives including the Women Empowerment Program (WEPs), the Youth Ambassador Program, as well as, the SDGs Ambitions Initiative. The local network organized several forums and workshops held at the EXPO 2020 Dubai to further promote the adoption of the UNGC 10 principles, support the UNSDGs and encourage collaborative efforts towards sustainable development.

⁶ <https://www.bayut.com/mybayut/sustainable-developments-initiatives-uae/>

The UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a global strategy for achieving economic growth that is consistent with the planet's carrying capacity, society's basic needs and priorities, and the capabilities and stability of the economy. Achieving them will be both a unique opportunity and a profound challenge.

A long-term vision has been set out for the UAE to ensure that the country can achieve a sustainable trajectory in all aspects of its development and expansion. This vision has been encapsulated in a number of documents and plans, such as the UAE Centennial 2071, the Dubai Plan 2030, the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Emissions Strategy 2050.

A strong commitment to sustainability was also clearly articulated by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum when he set out his UAE Centennial 2071 plan in early 2017. He noted that: "Establishing a long-term strategy based on a vision for happy future generations will guarantee sustainable development and lasting joy for decades in our country."

3.1 The Approach⁷

The UAE has played an instrumental role in formulating the UN's Agenda 2030, which outlines the 17 SDGs. We helped ensure that a consensus on the importance of sustainable development was a key outcome of the UN's Rio+20 Summit in 2012 and then worked with the global community for three years to institutionalise the goals for their formal adoption in 2015. Our concerted efforts made the UAE one of the first nations to join the global journey towards human prosperity via sustainability.⁸

In January 2017, UAE's National Committee on SDGs was formed by decree of the UAE Cabinet. Her Excellency Reem bint Ebrahim al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General of EXPO 2020 chairs the National Committee. The Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center (FCSC) serves as vice-chair and secretariat for the Committee. The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and 14 other Federal level government organisations are also members and are responsible for the national implementation for SDGs, monitoring and reporting of progress towards targets and

⁷ <https://fcsa.gov.ae/en-us/Documents/SDG%20Report%20EN%20Final.pdf>

⁸ <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302715626>

stakeholder engagement. Members of the National Committee have a variety of sector specific and cross cutting roles to implement the SDGs.

In 2017, the National Committee's priorities were to map the SDG targets to UAE's federal and local development plans. A prioritization exercise for SDG targets was undertaken and dialogue to incorporate priority SDG targets in Cabinet's decision processes and the UAE government's performance management framework and statistical reporting processes was initiated. A countrywide effort to raise awareness of the SDGs and to engage with a range of stakeholders across federal and local government, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations, was launched.

Mandate of the National Committee on SDGs

1. Align the SDGs with UAE's national development priorities and serve as a coordination body to implement the SDGs
2. Undertake regular follow up and review of progress on implementation
3. Manage domestic and international stakeholder engagement
4. Coordinate the collection of official statistics, identify new data sources and assist the National Statistics System to build capacity to monitor and report on SDG indicators
5. Manage adhoc SDG-related projects assigned by Cabinet

Stakeholder Engagement

The National Committee has developed an active engagement strategy to involve domestic and international stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs. The Committee's communication strategy is based on three principles: Make Aware, Engage and Maintain. The central idea is that the strategy should guide engagement with cross-sectoral stakeholders over the short-, medium- and long-term to ensure that there is momentum behind their combined efforts to achieve the SDGs. The National Committee has also been an active participant in international fora on sustainable development by participating or hosting high-profile events on data, policy and global partnerships and providing platforms to enhance global dialogue on the SDGs.

The 10 Principles

A great number of local and federal laws and regulations are in place and demonstrate Dubai's efforts and subsequent alignment to the UNGC's ten principles in a broad and all-encompassing manner.

The Executive Council was established in 2003 and considered as the main decision-making government entity in Dubai, with regard to maintaining the city's security and order, providing public utilities and achieving economic and social progress in the city.

In 2017, Dubai was certified by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, a leading global network of cities committed to tackling climate change and protecting the planet. This is an acknowledgement of Dubai's strategy to reduce GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions that pose a threat to the climate worldwide. In September 2018, H.E. Abdulla Al Basti, Secretary General of the Dubai Executive Council, representing Dubai, joined mayors of other cities around the world to take the C40 pledge that their cities will develop inclusive climate action plans by the end of 2020 to limit warming by 1.5 degrees Celsius and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In 2019, Dubai achieved a platinum certification in LEED for Cities, which measured the city's performance across various indicators including energy, water, transportation, education and waste. In 2021, Dubai announced its aim to produce 100% of energy from clean sources by 2050 (Dubai Net Zero Emissions Strategy 2050), as part of commitments towards Net Zero by 2050. Furthermore, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy launched the Circular Economy Committee to promote circular economy across different sectors in Dubai.

Anti-Corruption

The UAE does not tolerate **corruption** in any way and makes everyone accountable for such deeds, whether in the private or public sector.

Articles 234-239 of the UAE Penal Code set provisions for anti-bribery and corruption and the consequences of the act made by any public officer.

Labour

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) applies a strategic plan that seeks to transform the job market in the UAE into an empowering attractive market for Emirati talents. In addition, the Ministry seeks to realize its strategic plan that includes: empowering Emirati manpower; protecting the work environment; and enhancing the job market, while reinforcing innovation, and providing excellent services—including all administrative services—according to high standards of quality, efficiency, and transparency.

The Ministry is responsible for fulfilling the following key duties: proposing federal laws that regulate **labour and labour affairs** and supervise their implementation; managing the job market; proposing labour policies well-suited to the UAE.

The organizational structure of the MOHRE comprises two major divisions: the human resources division that includes the labour affairs department, inspection affairs department and assistive labourers department; while the second division is the Emiratisation Division (Labour law 8-1980⁹).

Human Rights

Federal Decree Law No. 2 of 2015 on Combating **Discrimination** and Hatred criminalises any acts that promote religious hatred through any form of expression. It makes it illegal to discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of religion, caste, doctrine, race, colour or ethnic origin.

Throughout its history, the UAE has followed the principles of justice and equality, respect for **human rights**, humanitarian aid and relief action in line with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since its inception, the UAE has ensured the founding of a tolerant and multi-cultural community in which individuals from across the world live in harmony, guaranteeing via its constitution their civil liberties

The UAE Constitution outlines the freedoms and rights of all citizens. It prohibits torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, and protects civil liberties, including freedom of speech and press, peaceful assembly and association, and the practice of religious beliefs. All people, irrespective of their race, nationality, religion and social position, are equal before the law.

Environment

The UAE Government wants to ensure sustainable development while preserving the environment, and to achieve a perfect balance between economic and social development.

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is the federal authority for environmental planning and action in UAE. The ministry, in collaboration with the competent local authorities concerned with environment, works on developing environmental programmes and initiatives that aim to contribute to the sustainability of water, enhance food security, raise the rates of bio-security and enhance environmental security. The action plans of the ministry emerge from its vision to ensure sustainable environment for life.

The ministry also launched National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017–2050 which serves as a roadmap to bolster nationwide actions for climate mitigation. Through this plan, the UAE will further strive to be at the frontline of global efforts to prove that climate action can go hand in hand with continuous economic

⁹ <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/11956/69376/F417089305/ARE11956.pdf>

development. The document serves as a complementary plan of action that specifically addresses climate change.¹⁰

Among the Emirates, Dubai has the most developed system of environmental regulations, requiring permits from the local municipality for activities relating to water usage (sewage/drainage, liquid waste) and to air pollution. The environmental standards imposed are closely monitored by the local municipality, which has the power to clean up at the polluter's expense, to enforce discontinuance of drainage or to cancel existing permits. Furthermore, the operator of a facility is required to perform monthly tests and to send the results to the municipality.

Federal Law No 24 of 1999, for the Protection and Development of the Environment, provides the legislative framework for environmental regulation within the UAE. The key principles behind the law can be summarised as follows;

1. to protect and conserve the quality and natural balance of the environment;
2. to control all forms of pollution and avoid harmful immediate or long term adverse effect resulting from economic, agricultural, industrial, development programs aiming at improving standards of living;
3. to develop natural resources and conserve biological diversity;
4. to protect society and the health of human beings from activities and acts that impose harm to the environment;
5. to protect the UAE environment from the harmful effect of activities undertaken outside the state; and
6. to comply with international and regional conventions ratified or signed by the UAE in respect of the protection of the environment

Environmental Regulators in the Emirate of Dubai

The Environment Department of the Dubai Municipality is the relevant government authority which regulates and enforces the environmental regulations applicable in Dubai. The activities of businesses carrying out projects involving industrial uses, telecommunications, roads construction, well drilling and drainage services are closely monitored and regulated by the Environment Department so as to ensure their compliance with the regulations.

Various free zones within Dubai have their own regulatory arms which deal with environmental issues. For example, Trakhees has a regulatory department for Environment Health and Safety (known as EHS), which regulates and enforces rules and regulations related to environmental protection such as air and water quality,

¹⁰ <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/federal-governments-strategies-and-plans/national-climate-change-plan-of-the-uae>

marine mammals, and 'landscaping' within a number of the free zones including Dubai Multi Commodities Centre, Dubai Media City and the Jebel Ali Free Zone.¹¹

In Conclusion, the City of Dubai is working to ensure that all activities are transparent and beneficial to the city, the country and the international community. We are constantly monitoring our efforts, communicating on the challenges and achievements and reporting on the most important initiatives and results.¹²¹³

¹¹ <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=7ad19d42-ea41-4bd9-9c57-08e2142ba10e>)

¹² <https://www.dubaipulse.gov.ae/>

¹³ <https://www.vision2021.ae/en/national-agenda-2021>