

EMIRATESGBC NEWSLETTER

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EMIRATES GREEN



A Letter from the Acting Chairman...

Dear EGBC Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to firstly extend my own and the Council's sincere gratitude to Adnan Sharafi, who has recently completed his term as EGBC Chairman. Adnan's dedication and leadership of the Council over the past three years has been a key pillar in enabling the EGBC to have a marked impact on improving the sustainability of the UAE's built environment.

The year 2014 has begun at a rapid pace with the Council having already participated in various programs throughout the region, including the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi. We already have a packed calendar for the start of the year with the EGBC looking forward to playing a leading role in the upcoming [UAE Green Festival 2014](#) which will take place from 16th March to 16th April. There will be ample opportunities for our Members to participate in the festival, with key highlights being the [Ecotourism](#) and [Greenovation Conference](#) which are being held on 30th - 31st March and 1st - 2nd April respectively. Other initiatives include the Eco Fashion show, International Green Market, Green Menu as well as several other events, details for which can be found on the Council's [website](#). I urge all our Members to continue playing a role in driving the sustainability of the UAE's built environment by actively participating in this and other initiatives. As with previous years, the EGBC are supporting key regional Exhibitions including WETEX (14-16 April), Cityscape Abu Dhabi (22- 24 April) and Middle East Electricity (11-13 February), and we hope to see you all and support us at our stand at these exhibitions.

Following the successful launch of the EGBC Awards, which took place on 11th December 2013, we are looking this year to build on this success and will be announcing new categories and criteria for the 2014 awards shortly, which will be taking place during June. The awards aim to recognize and reward the leaders in the field that are really driving sustainability in the UAE and MENA region. I am sure that each of our Members is playing a leading role in driving sustainability in the UAE so I encourage you all to put forward your nominations and submit your entries at EGBCawards@emiratesgbc.org. To celebrate the success of the winners from last year, we will be hosting a special event next month, details for which can be found in the 2nd page of the newsletter.

As a member driven organization, our impact relies heavily on our members. We are always pleased to welcome more participation, in order to increase and expand our activities for continuous growth. My message goes to all of you to play an active part in our important movement and volunteer to be part of the numerous initiatives, programs and task forces run by the EGBC. This will not only help in creating a more sustainable environment in the UAE but will also provide opportunities for personal expansion, networking and career growth. For more information and on how you can help in improving the sustainability of the UAE, please contact the EGBC office at 04-3468244 or office@emiratesgbc.org.

Sincerely,
Saeed Alabbar



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **February 11-14**
Middle East Electricity
- ◆ **February 19**
EGBC Networking Event
- ◆ **April 14-16**
WETEX
- ◆ **March 16—April 16**
UAE Green Festival
- ◆ **March 26**
EGBC Networking Event—Dubai Expo
- ◆ **March 31– April 2**
Urban Agenda 2020
- ◆ **22– 24 April**
Cityscape Abu Dhabi

Corporate Members

- ◆ Farnek
- ◆ UK CARES
- ◆ Sodamco Weber

Fact

Using recycled aluminum scrap to make cans takes 95% less energy than making it from raw materials

Contributed & Edited by:

Aanal Patwari Lora Shrake

Thank you for attending the seminar on 22nd January!

On 22nd January, EGBC jointly hosted a seminar with Dubai Supreme Council of Energy at WFES (World Future Energy Summit). The focus during the seminar was on the Demand Side Management Strategy 2030, an initiative will boost collaboration between the public and private sectors to put this strategy into action to achieve sustainability for Dubai. The Supreme Council of Energy is preparing to establish an office to manage energy projects and to implement the Demand Side Management by 2030. Demand Side Management will reduce demand for electricity by 30% and demand for water by 40% by 2030. A very positive response was gained from the delegates attending the seminar who actively participated in the Q & A session, giving their feedback and opinion on the Strategy. Those who could not make it, can kindly view the presentation on our website. Kindly [click here](#) to view the presentation.



Green Key Audits and Jury Meeting

In January-February, EmiratesGBC has been very active conducting Green Key Audits to certify new hotels and support the renewals of already certified hotels. On February 12th, the first Green Key Jury meeting will be held with representatives from EGBC board Legrand, EWS-WWF, EEG, MEFMA, the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM), the UAE Council for Tourism and Antiquities and Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority. Meeting on a quarterly basis, the jury will serve as the national authority for green key, discussing the auditors' recommendations for green key certification and ensuring that the Green Key criteria are properly tailored to the local hospitality context. Contact greenkey@emiratesgbc.org if you wish to learn more about the certifications or if you would like to be added to our pool of auditors.

EmiratesGBC cooperates with WorldGBC to develop Dubai and Abu Dhabi City briefs

As part of the World Green Building Council Board, EmiratesGBC participates in a number of initiatives and programs on the global level. Recently, EmiratesGBC collaborated with the WorldGBC and USGBC in developing market briefs that showcase the progress of [Abu Dhabi](#) and [Dubai](#) in terms of green building policy efforts as well as information on topics such as green schools, benchmarking, retrofit finance and sustainable communities. You can visit the [C40 Cities-Climate Leadership Group webpage](#) to learn more about the initiative and read about the success stories of other cities in the world. EmiratesGBC warmly tanks the colleagues from [USGBC](#) who have made this cooperation a great international success!



Visit us at www.emiratesgbc.org!

Local News:

UAE signs agreement with the master of sustainability to develop green energy projects

The UAE and the Government of Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday, agreeing to nine areas of collaboration focussing on advancing renewable energy and global sustainability. The specific areas of collaboration include policy exchange to support sustainable development and commercial renewable energy development, advancing carbon capture, usage and storage technologies, and human capital development. [Click here](#) to read more.

Abu Dhabi sustainability meet tackles green power

The UAE has highlighted the need to adopt resource efficiency and clean technologies to meet the growing energy demand at the formal opening ceremony of Abu Dhabi Sustainability week. In his keynote speech, Dr Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber, the UAE Minister of State and the CEO of Masdar, highlighted the challenges nations face to meet the growing energy demand with sustainable solutions. [Click here](#) to read more.

Airline launches new biofuel supply chain initiative in the UAE

[Etihad Airways](#) has announced a new initiative to support a sustainable biofuel supply chain in the United Arab Emirates. The initiative, called BIOjet Abu Dhabi: Flight Path to Sustainability, will involve research and development and investment in feedstock production and refining capability in the UAE and globally. Etihad Airways has also conducted a demonstration flight of a Boeing 777 powered in part by the first UAE-produced biokerosene. [Click here](#) to read more.

UAE partners with leading countries on sustainable cities

Government agencies and companies from the UAE, Denmark, Finland, France, and Sweden have outlined cooperation on waste-to-energy and demand-side management in the second meeting of the Global Sustainable Cities Network, convened as part of the 2014 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. Hosted by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Masdar, the Abu Dhabi-based renewable energy company, the three-day series of workshops and site visits evaluated policy and technology options to enhance market growth and cross-investment in the two fields. A study on the economic potential of waste heat reuse in the UAE and GCC was also announced. [Click here](#) to read more.

\$50m UAE-Pacific Fund to promote sustainability

Masdar, in partnership with Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, will develop renewable energy projects for five Pacific countries. The \$50 million UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund aims at financing solar and wind projects in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The projects will be financed from Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and co-designed and implemented by Masdar, Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company, in cooperation with each country's government. [Click here](#) to read more.

Beware, the UAE is running out of water resources

UN report says Arab region could be home to the fastest changing environment in the world as a result of growing population and environmental pressures. A country with limited water, fertile land, food and biodiversity is the dystopian picture presented by an international report if no action is taken to protect the UAE environment. It is estimated that two million barrels of oil are spilt annually into the sea area. Major declines in fish stocks have been documented due to fishing pressure, habitat degradation (pollution, dredging, land reclamation and channelling of the seabed) and environmental changes. [Click here](#) to read more.

Burj Al Arab awarded Green Globe Certification—[click here](#) to read more

Regional News:

Transforming Oman's economy with solar powered oil production

Using solar power to support oil production will contribute to Oman's Vision 20-20 plans for economic diversification. Using solar at the oil-field can divert natural gas from oil production to private industry and establish a new high-technology export industry within the Sultanate. Now, the Sultanate is poised to take technology to the next level by generating the steam required for oil production using solar power instead of by burning natural gas. [Click here](#) to read more.

Project seeks to allow households in Jordan to generate electricity

The Jordan River Foundation (JRF) is planning to implement a series of projects in 2014 to help citizens generate electricity using solar energy, increase women's participation in the economy and empower young people. The JRF is planning to implement a project to distribute solar power generators to households across the country. [Click here](#) to read.

King Abdullah Financial District builds on green drive success

King Abdullah Financial District (KAJD) is the world's largest green building development with more than 1.6m square meters of gross site area. Saudi Binladin Group disclosed this at the fourth annual Saudi Green Building Forum (SGBF) in Riyadh recently. [Click here](#) to read more.

Saudi Arabia seeks bids to build integrated gas/solar plant

Saudi Electricity Co (SEC) has invited companies to build, own and operate Saudi Arabia's first fossil-fuel fired power plant to use solar energy to cut carbon emissions, the state utility said. [Click here](#) to read more.

International News:

Solar energy to power iconic Vegas welcome sign

Officials in [Las Vegas](#) are harnessing the power of the sun to light the city's iconic welcome sign. Elected officials and project leaders flipped a switch on Wednesday linking solar panels on 25-foot (7.62-meter) towers to the glittering neon "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign. [Click here](#) to read more.

UN panel says next 15 years vital for taming warming

The next 15 years will be vital in determining whether [global warming](#) can be limited to 2 degrees celsius by 2100, with energy and transport presenting the heftiest challenges, according to a draft UN report. "Delaying mitigation through 2030 will increase the challenges and reduce the options," warns a summary of the report. The draft is the third volume in [a long-awaited trilogy](#) by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC). [Click here](#) to read more.

India ranked 155th in global environment performance list

The 2014 [Environmental Performance Index](#) (EPI), released today here, has ranked 178 countries in total. Among them, India is placed [at the 155th position](#), with an index score of 31.23 points. Its rank is also much lower than [BRICS peers](#). [Click here](#) to read more.

Al Gore extreme weather has made people to wake up to climate change—[click here](#) to read

