

EMIRATESGBC NEWSLETTER

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EMIRATES GREEN



A Letter from the Outgoing Chairman...

Dear EGBC Members,

As 2013 came towards an end, a flurry of activities took place, climaxing with a very successful EGBC Annual Congress and Annual General Meeting. My sincere thanks goes to the sponsors, speakers, judges and all the participants, with special appreciation to the great team of EGBC who organized the event and executed it as smooth as silk, even with last minute changes that were beyond control.

Congratulations also to all the first winners of the EGBC Awards that debuted this year. The future looks green, and it is up to us in this generation to ensure that it is green and will be so for many years to come. There are plenty of challenges ahead of us, but we need to take cognizance of them now, study their root cause, carefully plan on what needs to be done to turn them around into opportunities, create smart goals and strategies to reach our objectives, and skillfully execute them and then evaluate how well we did in reaching our goals... and start all over again as life is not constant, it is ever-changing bringing new challenges and opportunities and it is only the fittest that survive.

At EGBC, change of leadership is on the horizon as there are new challenges that bring new opportunities and require new leadership. I have been fortunate and honored to lead the EGBC in the past three years with support from my colleagues and all of you who are passionate about making a difference for mankind in this part of the world. We are a great organization with passionate people, who serve as a platform for sharing, collaboration and change for a better, more efficient, effective built environment that contributes positively in the society. One that serves the needs of this generation, without compromising the needs of future generations. To all our members and supporters who have been passionate and supportive to our cause, and to Lora and her team in the EGBC Office who have worked tirelessly over the years to make EGBC what it is today, goes my sincere thanks and appreciation. My sincere thanks also goes to the Vice Chair, Saeed Alabbar, who will be the interim Chair until the new chairman is voted in in the future. Keep up the good work and wish you all a happy and most successful new year.

Sincerely,
Adnan Sharafi



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **January 14**
EGBC Technical Workshop
- ◆ **January 22**
EGBC Seminar with Dubai Supreme Council of Energy
- ◆ **January 20-22**
World Future Energy Summit
- ◆ **January 26—30**
CEM Training
- ◆ **February 11-14**
Middle East Electricity
- ◆ **March 14-16**
WETEX
- ◆ **April 14-17**
Cityscape Global

Welcome New Corporate Members!

- ◆ Bucomac Industries
- ◆ Emaar Community Management

Fact

It takes 25 gallons of water to produce a pound of wheat. It takes 5000 gallons of water to produce a pound of beef.

Contributed & Edited by:

Aanal Patwari Lora Shrake

Wishing you all a very Happy, Prosperous and a Sustainable New Year!!

Thank you for joining us at the 2nd Annual EGBC Congress

After a successful inception of the EGBC Congress last year, the 2nd Annual EGBC Congress under the theme “**Building a Green Future**” was held on 11–12th December 2013 in Dubai. Over 150 delegates participated in the 2-day event which included Conference, Awards & Gala Dinner, and Workshops. Several government dignitaries from Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, and Abu Dhabi Urban



Planning Council delivered keynote presentations at the Congress, drawing attention to the current economy of the region and plans for the way forward for the country. The Congress was also host to reputed guest speakers from across the MENA region who brought about interesting discussions and presentations. Renowned organizations making a mark in the sustainability movement like EWS-WWF, HOK, MEFMA, EEG, Masdar, and Abu Dhabi Department of Municipal Affairs also participated actively at the Congress. For more details on the Congress proceedings, please visit the EGBC Congress [website](#). The congress would not have been possible without the 9 Sponsors listed below and we extend our sincere appreciation:

Principal Sponsor: Majid Al Futtaim Properties; **Platinum Sponsors:** Trane, Siemens; **Silver Sponsors:** Brookfield Multiplex, Al Abbar Group, CES Group; **Workshop Sponsor:** ETAP; **Competition Sponsor:** Emirates NBD; and **Lanyard Sponsor:** UTS Carrier

EmiratesGBC also conducted the final round of the interschool debate competition on day 2 of the Congress. Congratulations to the winning team from The Central School for portraying an outstanding show at the competition.

EGBC Awards Launched in 2013—Congratulations to the first Award Winners!

Of very special mention is the **EGBC Awards**, launched in 2013 alongside the Annual Congress. An Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner was held on the evening of the 11th December and honoured six outstanding companies with crystals for their positive impact in the building industry. A big congratulations to the first ever winners in the following award categories!

Carbon Saving Reduction Program of the Year – Pacific Controls; **Training Initiative of the Year** - Unibeton; **Green Building Material/Product Award** – SGL Group; **Green Building Research Award** – Mapei; **Green Building System Award** – CEMEX and Royal City Contracting

During the ceremony, the WorldGBC MENA Network recognized Dr. Sadek Owainati, co-founder of EmiratesGBC and founding chair of the MENA Network, with a plaque for his service developing the MENA GBC Network.

Congratulations to all the Winners of the EGBC Awards!



EGBC News and Updates

2013 Annual General Meeting

The EmiratesGBC held its Annual General Meeting on 12th December alongside the EGBC Congress. The AGM is a time for the council to reflect on its accomplishments of the year and an opportunity for corporate and individual members to voice their concerns and recommendations for the direction of the Council. We thank the committed members who attended the AGM and provided their valuable input. We have noted the discussion points that were raised during the meeting and will take all into consideration as the Council develops its strategic plans for the coming years.

EmiratesGBC Board Meeting

The last board meeting of 2013 was held in early December with emphasis placed on 2014 strategy. Board members thanked outgoing Chairman, Mr. Adnan Sharafi from Al Arsh Properties, for his service as Chairman and for his role in bringing the Council to a strong standing during his 3 years as Chairman. Members of the board also extended their support to Vice Chair, Mr. Saeed Alabbar of AESG, who will serve as interim Chair until elections are carried out at the first 2014 board meeting.

A rich year for EmiratesGBC Technical workshops

With 6 technical workshops conducted in 2013, topics such as building regulations, sustainable lighting systems, Indoor Air Quality and VOC in building materials were addressed amongst motivated participants. Summary briefs of the 2013 sessions have been compiled and will be shared with members this month to allow everyone to gain from the discussions and shared solutions. The line up for 2014 workshops is under development and your suggestions for topics are more than welcome! The first technical workshop of the new year will take place on **Tuesday 14 January** and will focus on **bio mimicry in the green building industry**. Registration for technical workshops is open to EmiratesGBC members and partners. To RSVP for this session and to send your suggestions for future workshops, please contact Marie in the EmiratesGBC office.

Thank you for attending the Cleveland Clinic Building Tours

EmiratesGBC conducted sustainable building tours for its members in November and December at the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. The tours were very well received with about 30 attendees in total. Several key elements of the building were touched upon, including solar panels, FSC timber fit-out, low flow fixture, local materials, green roof and the double skin façade (energy efficiency), undercover car park, grey water system, waste recycling and management, landscape at ground level. Thanks to all who were part of the tours and to Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi for hosting the building tours. We would like to hear your suggestions for building tours and workshops for 2014. Mail us at events@emiratesgbc.org.

EmiratesGBC conducts its first Green Key Audit

On 18th December 2013, EmiratesGBC conducted its first Green Key audit at Le Royal Meridien hotel in Abu Dhabi. As national operator of this green certification, EmiratesGBC representatives and an experienced third-party auditor from WSP visited the hotel to assess the facilities' compliance with a set of criteria covering energy-water-waste management, indoor environment, training and awareness. More audits will be conducted in the coming weeks to review new applicant hotels as well as the 22 hotels already certified in the UAE. 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.

Certified Energy Manager—Registration Open for January Training Course

Industry professionals in the UAE have the opportunity to distinguish themselves in energy management by becoming a Certified Energy Manager (CEM). EmiratesGBC with British University in Dubai (BUiD) and in association with the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), are offering CEM Training to gain CEM qualification. The qualification is geared towards engineers and architects working in energy engineering or energy management. The training course, after a successful participation in 2013, will be held again on **26 –30 January 2014**. For more details or to register your interest, please contact training.pdu@buid.ac.ae.

EmiratesGBC to host a Seminar on 22nd January in Abu Dhabi

EmiratesGBC will be hosting a seminar with **Dubai Supreme Council of Energy** on **22nd January** at **World Future Energy Summit**, focusing on **Demand Side Management 2030**. Keeping in line with the Vision of a Green Economy for Sustainable Development, Dubai Supreme Council of Energy has launched Demand Side Management 2030 which will boost collaboration between public and private sectors to put this strategy into action to achieve sustainability for Dubai. We welcome you all to be a part of this informative seminar. Please RSVP to events@emiratesgbc.org before 20th January.

Join us for the Sustainable Activities in the coming months

With a flood of activities taking place in the Emirates in the coming months, EmiratesGBC has joined hands with several initiatives to promote the spirit of Green Buildings and Sustainability in the region. Exhibitions provide a common platform for progressive organizations and professionals in the field of energy, water and environmental management to share their ideas and discuss the latest technologies initiated in the environmental field, and we are pleased to offer support in this capacity. Join us at World Future Energy Summit (20-22 January, Abu Dhabi) Middle East Electricity (11-14 February, Dubai) and WETEX (14-16 April, Dubai).

Well Done Members!!

Congratulations to the following organizations for showing an outstanding contribution in the field of sustainability at the BGreen Awards:

Contractor of the Year Award—Brookfield Multiplex
Energy Efficiency Project of the year— Green Energy Solutions
Most sustainable Large Corporation—Interface

Most Sustainable NGO—Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF
Green building Project of the year—The Change Initiative



EmiratesGBC wants to hear from our Members!

Share with us your success stories! There is a lot of great information and case studies to be shared out there and we want to provide our members with the platform to exchange ideas and promote your accomplishments.

Local News:

Dubai aims to rank among the world's top 10 sustainable cities by 2020

Solar-powered street lamps in parks, green building codes and conversion to efficient lighting will help to put Dubai among the world's top 10 sustainable cities by 2020. The municipality recently formed a committee to study and introduce green programmes. [Click here](#) to read more.

UAE to play host to UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy conference

Following on its impressive initiatives to set the country on a sustainable path, the UAE will now play host to the first UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) conference. A platform to highlight green economy models and practices, PAGE will bring together global leaders in green technology, ministers, academics as well as financiers and insurers in a two day conference to be held in Dubai on March 4 and 5. [Click here](#) to read more.

World's largest solar-powered desalination plant in Ras Al Khaimah

The world's largest solar-powered seawater desalination plant will soon be established in Ras Al Khaimah to produce more than 22 million gallons of potable water per day and 20MW of solar power. The project would set the new benchmark for the desalination business model and will be the world's greenest desalination plant with the least CO2 emissions. [Click here](#) to read more.

Masdar City to save 56% energy and 54% water

The construction in Masdar City is strictly following green building codes, which will help reduce energy demand by 56 per cent and potable water demand by 54 per cent. Powered entirely by renewable energy, Masdar City combines passive and intelligent design to showcase how an urban environment can accommodate denser populations with fewer resources, Masdar officials say. [Click here](#) to read more.

UAE Green Festival set to give nation sustainable identity

Under the theme "Live, learn and have fun in a low carbon world", the UAE Green Festival, a country-wide celebration to take place on March 16 and last for one month, is meant to unveil the UAE's sustainable identity. The festival will comprise ecotourism, sustainable transportation and green technology among others. Each of these sustainable pillars will bid an array of eco-friendly activities and functions. [Click here](#) to read more.

Abu Dhabi leads on sustainability

As the first Arabian Gulf country to develop its own credible green ranking system – Estidama – Abu Dhabi has shown the world it is serious about responsible development amid a huge construction programme. The Government has implemented programmes to encourage sustainability in the UAE, although there is a way to go yet. Dubai and Abu Dhabi consume some 83 per cent more water per capita than the global average – almost all of which comes from desalination, a process that accounts for 20 per cent of the UAE's total power outage. [Click here](#) to read more.

Micro tunneling to aid sustainability, reduce costs in Dubai, says SOE-UAE

Dubai is promoting micro tunnelling to aid sustainability and cut costs across the nation, said Eng Essa Al Madoor, president of the Society of Engineers UAE, or SOE-UAE, and president of Arabian Tunnelling Conference 2013, or ATC 2013. [Click here](#) to read more.

Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority strategic partner for 2nd International Water Summit 2014—[click here](#) to read

Regional News:

Saudi Arabia to assess renewable energy sources

King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE) has embarked on a national project to measure the sources of renewable energy in the Kingdom. The move to assess the Kingdom's renewable energy sources using state-of-the-art technology, the country's long-awaited project on renewable energy. [Click here](#) to read more.

Qatar to educate facilities management experts in sustainable practices

A new initiative has been launched in Qatar to educate and empower facilities management experts in sustainable practices. The Facilities Management Interest Group, set up by the Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) and the Middle East Facility Management Association (MEFMA), has been created as a platform for professionals to meet, discuss and share best practices. [Click here](#) to read more.

SHAAMS Project launched in Lebanon to widen public awareness on solar energy

Berytech recently launched SHAAMS initiative in cooperation with the Business Incubation Association in Tripoli (BIAT) and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut. The project is funded by the European Union and 12 regional partners (comprising Spain, Italy, and Greece). More specifically, the project is set to widen public awareness on solar energy in order to simplify the adoption of solar technologies. [Click here](#) to read more.

\$290 million utility scale wind power project in Jordan

Masdar-financed Jordan's wind power project has concluded the financial close to begin construction of the Middle East's first utility-scale wind-power project. [Click here](#) to read more.

International News:

China launches cleaner gasoline standards

China has launched its national "V" standard for gasoline which will become a national mandate from Jan 2018, the government said, as it moves to clean up smoggy air in the world's largest auto market and the second largest oil consumer. [Click here](#) to read more.

World experiences hottest November in 134 years: US

The month of November was the hottest experienced on earth since record-keeping began in 1880, [the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) said. The finding was based on globally averaged land and ocean surface temperatures last month, [NOAA](#) said in a statement. [Click here](#) to read more.

Scientists discover vast undersea freshwater reserves

Australian researchers said they had established the existence of vast freshwater reserves trapped beneath the ocean floor which could sustain future generations as current sources dwindle. UN Water, [the United Nations' water agency](#), estimates that water use has been growing at more than twice the rate of population in the last century due to demands such as irrigated agriculture and meat production.

New top Obama aide to focus on climate, energy

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



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