

# EMIRATESGBC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

VOLUME IV ISSUE 3

## EMIRATES GREEN



### A Letter from the Chairman...

Dear EGBC Members,

Welcome to the March installment of the EmiratesGBC Newsletter. The year has really commenced at a frantic pace and the advancements being made every month in the sphere of sustainable buildings is truly remarkable. With a growing focus on the energy efficient refurbishment of existing buildings in the UAE, Dubai's Regulatory and Supervisory Bureau for Electricity and Water this month launched a new regulatory framework for energy service companies (ESCOs) in Dubai. The initiative marks a major milestone in the Emirate's plan to have 30,000 of its buildings retrofitted, which is a key aspect of the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy's ambitious target of reducing energy demand by 30% by 2030. With Dubai Municipality's Green Building Regulations also coming into effect from the beginning of this year and the Estidama framework in Abu Dhabi continuously celebrating new milestones of the programs success, it is clear that the government of the UAE is putting in place all the necessary measures to improve the sustainability of the country's building stock.

It has been an eventful start to the year for EmiratesGBC too with several events taking place throughout the region. Members of the EmiratesGBC Board and Management will be participating as speakers in various conferences and exhibitions over the coming months, including GCC Ecotourism, Greenovation, Public Infrastructure UAE, WETEX, Cityscape Abu Dhabi and several others. Adnan Sharafi, EmiratesGBC former EmiratesGBC Chairman will also be attending the World Green Building Council Board of Directors Meeting in London this March. At the end of February, EmiratesGBC held a successful networking event to celebrate the achievements of the winners of the 2013 EGBC Awards and provide a platform for the winners to showcase their innovations. The event was very well attended and it was excellent to see the advancements being made by the industry in the region. I was also very pleased to visit the Rochester Institute of Technology in Dubai this past month where EmiratesGBC signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the University. The University is very focused on technical research and have an excellent pool of students and laboratory facilities. I am therefore confident that with the support of our Members in Industry we can make this partnership very fruitful for the advancement of green buildings in the region.

Lastly, following the successful first edition of the EGBC Awards in 2013, we are eagerly looking forward to the 2014 Awards, which are due to take place on the 11th of June 2014. The EmiratesGBC team have been working very hard on this year's Awards and with some new exciting categories this year, it promises to be a terrific event. I am also very pleased that KPMG have once again offered to audit the Awards, which provides participants with assurance in the transparency and integrity of the process. More details on the categories and application procedures are available on the EmiratesGBC website ([www.emiratesgbc.org](http://www.emiratesgbc.org)) and for any queries please email: [egbcawards@emiratesgbc.org](mailto:egbcawards@emiratesgbc.org).

I wish you all a successful month ahead.

Sincerely,  
Saeed Al Abbar



### Upcoming Events

- ◆ **March 16—April 16**  
UAE Green Festival
- ◆ **March 26**  
EGBC Networking Event—Dubai Expo
- ◆ **March 31—April 2**  
Urban Agenda 2020
- ◆ **April 14-16**  
WETEX
- ◆ **April 22—24**  
CityScape Abu Dhabi
- ◆ **April 28**  
EGBC Networking Event with MEFMA
- ◆ **May 6**  
Focus Day

### New Corporate Members

- ◆ Alamil Middle East JLT
- ◆ Emrill Services LLC
- ◆ Al Yousuf LLC – GreenTech

### New Individual Members

- ◆ Abeer Bayazidi
- ◆ Sanju Merreena Kuriakose

### Fact

When you turn on an incandescent light bulb, only 10 percent of the electricity used is turned into light. The other 90 percent is wasted as heat.

### Contributed & Edited by:

Aanal Patwari                      Lora Shrake

### Join us at upcoming Sustainability Events in the Region

Emirates GBC is endorsing numerous events in the coming month and we encourage you all to join us at our exhibition stands. Given below are the details of a few of the events which EmiratesGBC is endorsing and participating in. Should you be available to volunteer, please email [events@emiratesgbc.org](mailto:events@emiratesgbc.org). Volunteer hours with EmiratesGBC can count towards LEED Maintenance Credits so you can take advantage of earning credits while you contribute to your Council!

**WETEX** (14-16 April 2014) an important regional resourcing platform, will provide a venue for industry leaders to keep abreast of the latest developments in the field of Water, Energy and Environment, and to network with strategic partners to pursue innovative solutions.

**UAE Green Festival**, another important initiative, will commence for 1 month from 16th March to 16th April, and EmiratesGBC is proud to be associated with the festival. Numerous activities will take place in the month long festival and we encourage you all to show your support by participating in the variety of events being held. Representatives from EmiratesGBC will participate in the **GCC Ecotourism** and **Greenovation** conference. Should you be interested to participate as a delegate, kindly send a mail to [info@uaegreenfestival.com](mailto:info@uaegreenfestival.com).

EmiratesGBC Vice Chairman Jeffrey Willis will participate as a speaker in the **URBAN AGENDA 2020** (1-2 April), which will examine the factors that go into making a developing city livable and understand how cities can develop dynamically and ensure economic growth – while maintaining a great living environment.

EmiratesGBC is also supporting the Abu Dhabi's only real estate investment and development exhibition, **CityScape Abu Dhabi**, which will take place from 22-24 April and offer insight into Abu Dhabi's 2030 vision.

We welcome you all to join us at the above events! Thank you!

### EmiratesGBC signs MoU with Rochester Institute of Technology on 19th February

EmiratesGBC Chairman Saeed Al Abbar and Dr. Yousef Al-Assaf, President of the Rochester Institute of Technology, signed an MoU on 19th February 2014 to develop a framework for cooperation between the Council and the University on areas of mutual interest. The signing was preceded by a tour of the RIT campus and presentations by the students of some of the ongoing projects taking place at the new Mechatronics Center whose efforts were commended by EmiratesGBC and RIT representatives who came from New York especially for the occasion.



Visit us at [www.emiratesgbc.org](http://www.emiratesgbc.org)!



## Local News:

### **Dubai targets sustainable development :**

Faced with rising power consumption and a grid under pressure, Dubai is stepping up its efforts to improve energy efficiency, while boosting the role played by renewable resources in meeting demand. Long term, a broad range of initiatives, supported by a new regulatory framework announced last year, should help bring energy costs under control. [Click here](#) to get more details.

### **Dewa signs agreement to pilot Middle East's first concentrated solar plant in Dubai :**

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (Dewa) has signed an agreement to pilot the Middle East's first Stirling Engine Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plant. The project is expected to break ground next month, and is expected to be formally inaugurated in April. Dubai has pledged to diversify its energy mix so that 5 per cent of its requirements are derived from solar power by 2030. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **Corporate sustainability takes root but work to be done:**

The increasing number of sustainability initiatives in the UAE in particular is a positive sign that there is a growing awareness of the impact that we have. But, given the rising recognition of corporate sustainability and its importance, it's ironic that in the 2013 Sustainability Leaders Survey conducted by GlobeScan/Sustainability, no-one could name a sustainability leader in the Middle East. This is proof that while the concept of corporate sustainability is growing in prevalence across the region, there is still not enough being done to earn recognition by the rest of the world. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **Setting a trend for sustainable transport:**

From a top airline or a rent-a-car firm to a special needs institution or a school, the green wave in the transport sector seems to have spread across the board. A silent green revolution is currently under way in schools, the private sector as well as at the government level as more organizations are adopting eco-friendly transport means across the country. The trend is reflected by an increasing participation in the Dubai Awards for Sustainable Transport (Dast) . [Click here](#) to read more.

### **Zayed National Museum gets design award for energy-efficiency:**

The museum being named after the country's founding Father, Sheikh Zayed, has been given an award for its energy-efficient design. The Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council awarded the design for the [Zayed National Museum](#) project three out of five "pearls" under its environmental sustainability rating system. The museum, which is scheduled for completion on Saadiyat Island in 2016, will feature a host of ecologically-friendly building techniques and features. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **Dubai Car Free Day - Top bosses use Metro; 9,000 keep cars at home:**

As part of its initiative to encourage Dubai residents to put their green footprint forward and go car-free for one day, top officials at the Dubai Municipality, Dubai Police and dignitaries from various government departments stepped out to set an example by travelling in the Dubai Metro. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **UAE introduces indoor lighting standard: good for environment and good for economy:**

New regulation will cut carbon emissions equivalent to removing 165,000 cars off the road annually. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **UAE's first car recycling plant ready for operation:**

Dumped cars that used to gather carpets of dust on sandy lots and back streets can be put to better use after the UAE's first car-recycling plant officially opened. [Click here](#) to read more.

## Regional News:

### **New invention in Lebanon that turns garbage into carbon:**

Jamil Rima, environmentalist and professor of chemistry, hopes to bring Lebanon's waste battle to an end with a new invention that turns garbage into carbon coal fuel in just 15 minutes. between 20 and 25 percent of the garbage would be turned to coal while the rest would evaporate as water. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **Saudi Arabia and Germany collaborate on renewable energy research:**

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE) and German based Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE) signed a collaboration framework agreement which will cover renewable energy R&D as well as testing and training, serving as a basis for various projects between the organizations, which are committed to develop, support and deploy renewable energy technology. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **Loans to help farmers go solar in Jordan:**

Farmers in Jordan can now apply for low-interest personal loans to replace their diesel-powered equipment with solar energy. The solar power project, to be financed by the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), will be primarily centered on helping farmers reduce their energy bill and encouraging eco-friendly practices in Jordan. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **UN to help Iraq with environmental restoration:**

To restore Iraq's deteriorating environment, the Government of Iraq has signed a landmark cooperation agreement with the UN Environment Programme to speed environmental recovery and support peace-building. Iraq's environmental health has declined in recent years, a decline worsened by decades of war and growing pressures on natural resources. [Click here](#) to read more.

## International News:

### **Hazardous haze shrouds Kuala Lumpur:**

The haze has shrouded Kuala Lumpur and surrounding areas for more than a week in a pall of noxious fumes, smelling of ash and coal, in the country's worst environmental crisis since 1997. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **Everest threatened by warming:**

Edmund Hillary, the first climber to conquer Mount Everest with his Sherpa guide, on Monday urged that the world's highest mountain be placed on the United Nations' list of endangered heritage sites because of the risks of climate change. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **DRDO set to harness ocean power :**

Given the pressure on land and limited sources which can be tapped for generation of electricity, the ministry of earth sciences is now focusing its attention on oceans to meet growing power demand. It has started working on developing [wind farms](#) in ocean, which have a potential of power generation for 300 days in a year . [Click here](#) to read more.

### **US, China to share policy ideas to fight global warming:**

The US and China, the world's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases, on Saturday announced they were joining forces to share more information on trying to combat [climate](#) change. [Click here](#) to read more.



Email EGBC to subscribe to this newsletter: [office@emiratesgbc.org](mailto:office@emiratesgbc.org)

Visit us at [www.emiratesgbc.org](http://www.emiratesgbc.org)