



EmiratesGBC

مجلس الامارات للابنية الخضراء
Emirates Green Building Council

Emirates Green Building Council

Excellence in Sustainability of the Built Environment



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2023



Table of Contents

01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

02 FOREWORD BY HH HONORARY PRESIDENT OF EGBC

03 INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN OF EGBC

04 REFLECTIONS FROM COP28

05 THE EMIRATESGBC

06 LOOKING AHEAD

07 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Management System
 ISO 9001:2015
 ISO 14001:2015
 www.tuv.com
 ID 9105066202



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 2023 EmiratesGBC received:
39 New Corporate Members
36% increase in members

Most increase in membership since 10 years



Profile of *Members*

04**Architect****01****Banking/Finance****21****Consultant****16****Contractor****07****Developer****01****District Cooling****06****Energy
Management****04****Facilities /Property
Management****01****Healthcare****13****Others****56****Supplier/
Manufacturer**

In 2023 EmiratesGBC:

1

Launched the UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Report during COP28

2

Initiated a study on Indoor Air Quality in 28 schools across the seven Emirates

3

Initiated a study on Indoor Air Quality in 4 Universities

4

Received 72 applications to the awards and awarded 16 applications

5

Conducted the 13th Annual Congress with 235 attendees

6

Conducted 28 events at COP28 with over 1000 attendees

7

Reached 105 certified Green Key hotels

8

Signed 3 MOUs

9

Increased online presence by 283%



FOREWORD BY HH HONORARY PRESIDENT OF EMIRATESGBC



As we face the critical tipping points of our climate, shaping our lives towards sustainable living has become more urgent than ever. In our pursuit of environmental restoration, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to lead with steady innovation and leadership, forging a greener future. COP28 showcased groundbreaking initiatives by the UAE, such as the National Carbon Registry, which uses blockchain to track emissions reductions, and the Energy Management System for federal roads, which aims to reduce carbon emissions.

Over the past three decades, the UAE has turned the built environment into a versatile tool for greener living. Transitioning to eco-friendly urban design offers undeniable potential, limited only by our creativity and commitment: cities built around green spaces reduce heat islands, innovative building materials promise energy conservation, and incorporating renewable energies into our living spaces means fewer emissions and cleaner air.

It holds the potential to lead us closer to net-zero emissions and healthier, happier communities. From energy-efficient buildings to sustainable urban planning, shaping greener cities represents both a challenge and an opportunity. As we all work together to achieve our emission goals, we cannot overstate the importance of new architectural design, thoughtful construction, and green infrastructure development.

With its rapidly evolving cities and innovative infrastructure, the UAE can act as a global example of green innovation. We know that EmiratesGBC has played a critical role in advancing the UAE's commitment to green development, including the launch of the UAE Sustainability Built Environment Blueprint, an essential guide to identifying policy enablers and opportunities for carbon reduction.

FOREWORD BY HH HONORARY PRESIDENT OF EGBC

EmiratesGBC has contributed to UAE's sustainability goals through its many partnerships and continued dedication, promoting energy-efficient solutions, improving air quality, and supporting the country's transition towards greener urban development. Through its advocacy, leadership, and research, EmiratesGBC is transforming how we live and interact with our environment in the UAE. Empowering professionals across the region takes planning, dedication, and foresight - no easy task. However, it is a task that I know we can achieve with EmiratesGBC leading the way.

Championing innovative technologies and holding developers to the highest green building standards is a monumental feat and one that will surely see the UAE achieve new heights of sustainable development.

As the UAE joins in global sustainability efforts, the role of EmiratesGBC is instrumental in achieving our collective climate goals. Together, we have the opportunity to reduce our environmental footprint and create a sustainable infrastructure for future generations.

INTRODUCTION: CHAIRMAN OF EMIRATES GBC



The year 2023 was transformative for Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) and for sustainability across the UAE. As we reflect on our progress, we are reminded of the critical role our built environment plays in the global fight against climate change. This year, with the UAE hosting COP28, we were afforded a unique opportunity to showcase our nation's commitment to sustainability and environmental leadership on the world stage. Through pivotal initiatives like the UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint, EmiratesGBC has contributed to meaningful dialogues on policy, innovation, and green technology, engaging with leaders and experts to advance decarbonization and resilience.

EmiratesGBC's role as a catalyst for positive change is underscored by our mission to inspire, educate, and collaborate across sectors. From driving net-zero commitments to enhancing indoor air quality in schools and universities, we are making strides in sustainable development, setting new benchmarks, and empowering a greener tomorrow. This year's achievements also reflect the dedication of our members, partners, and volunteers whose contributions have helped us turn ambitious goals into actionable results.

Looking forward, we are more committed than ever to supporting the UAE's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and to fostering an inclusive, resilient future for our communities. Together, we continue our journey toward a sustainable built environment that will not only benefit our nation but also serve as a model of excellence in green development worldwide.

REFLECTIONS FROM



COP28, hosted by Dubai, UAE, served as a crucial platform to engage, advocate, and learn about climate change initiatives. EmiratesGBC was at the forefront in both the blue and green zones, organizing 28 sessions and participating in numerous other international and local sessions. Through these engagements, EmiratesGBC shared their insights and expertise.



Major EmiratesGBC COP28 Engagements:

1. Launch of the **UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Report**, preceded by **HE Razan Al Mubarak** meeting with CEO's of the major developers of the UAE.
2. 10 Panel Discussions:
 - ***Digitalization: A Tool to Aid in the Transition of the Building Sector to Net Zero***
 - ***Embodied Carbon, a Journey of Materials through the Supply Chain***
 - ***Sustainability at the Crossroads: Retrofitting Challenges and Opportunities in the UAE***
 - ***Beyond Classroom Walls: Unlocking the Potential of Outdoor School Spaces***
 - ***Empowering Education: Addressing Indoor Air Quality***
 - ***Women Pioneering Sustainability for the Greener Built Future: Water, Waste, Materials***
 - ***Women Pioneering Sustainability for the Greener Built Future: Energy, Technology, and Finance***
 - ***Emerging Voices: Youth Perspectives on Climate Challenges in Education and Profession for Sustainability.***
 - ***Launching the UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Report***
 - ***Accuracy Panel Discussion***
3. A workshop engaging 3 schools and 36 students: **Empowering Youth and Communities for a Sustainable Future**, a MENA Alliance for Green Schools Initiative.
4. **2 Morning Briefs**

Check out the [EmiratesGBC Reflections from COP28](#) report.



ABOUT THE EMIRATESGBC

The EmiratesGBC is a platform for advancing **sustainability of the built environment in the UAE**, through advocating and educating on topics related to the matter and through becoming a beacon for collaboration amongst the leaders in the sector.

Since its inception in 2006, the EmiratesGBC has seen substantial progress in the sustainability of the built environment, reflected in notable shifts in attitudes and demands. The year 2023 marked a pivotal moment in the commitment to advancing sustainability in this sector, driven by the influence of COP28 and the ambitious targets set by the UAE in its third update to the second NDC.

As a witness to change, the EmiratesGBC can attest to the more robust implementation of green building policies and regulations. Even when policies and regulations are still being developed, EmiratesGBC notes that its members are exceeding standard market practices by adopting or creating consistent rating systems and enhancing knowledge sharing, contributing to making the UAE a leader in sustainable built environments.

VISION

For the UAE to be a global leader for sustainability in the built environment.

MISSION

Emirates Green Building Council is a catalyst for collaboration and a hub for excellence to promote sustainability of the built environment in the UAE.

STRATEGIES OF THE EMIRATESGBC



ACCELERATE

Maintain and grow EmiratesGBC's organizational stability, operational excellence and the happiness of its people



EDUCATE

Build capacity by providing the tools, knowledge & skills needed to transform the industry to a decarbonized & healthy environment



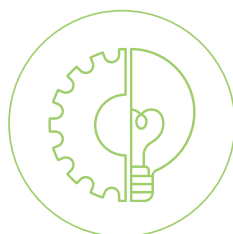
COMMUNICATE

To raise awareness on the relevance, importance and progress of sustainability in the built environment



ADVOCATE

Influence policy to strengthen sustainability in the built environment in the UAE and the region



INNOVATE

Act as a catalyst of change within technical, business and social innovation



COLLABORATE

Strengthen position through partnership with key stakeholders

EMIRATESGBC 2023 AT A GLANCE

Learning and Development

45

Hours of learning and development

436

Attendees for learning and development

43

Survey feedbacks for learning and development

97%

Expressed interest in attending future EmiratesGBC Technical Workshops

Technical Workshops

Technical Workshops (TW) are intended to gather EmiratesGBC members and partners monthly To discuss specific topics that are relevant and beneficial to the green building industry.

- As a knowledge-sharing platform, TW are intended to offer members an opportunity to **highlight issues and solutions** in their specific areas of work, and to exchange knowledge with professionals from other companies, sectors, and areas of the green building industry.
- TW support the Council's objectives to be an **active and pro-active Knowledge Center** for its members.



Technical Workshops of 2023



SESSIONS
11



TOPICS
11



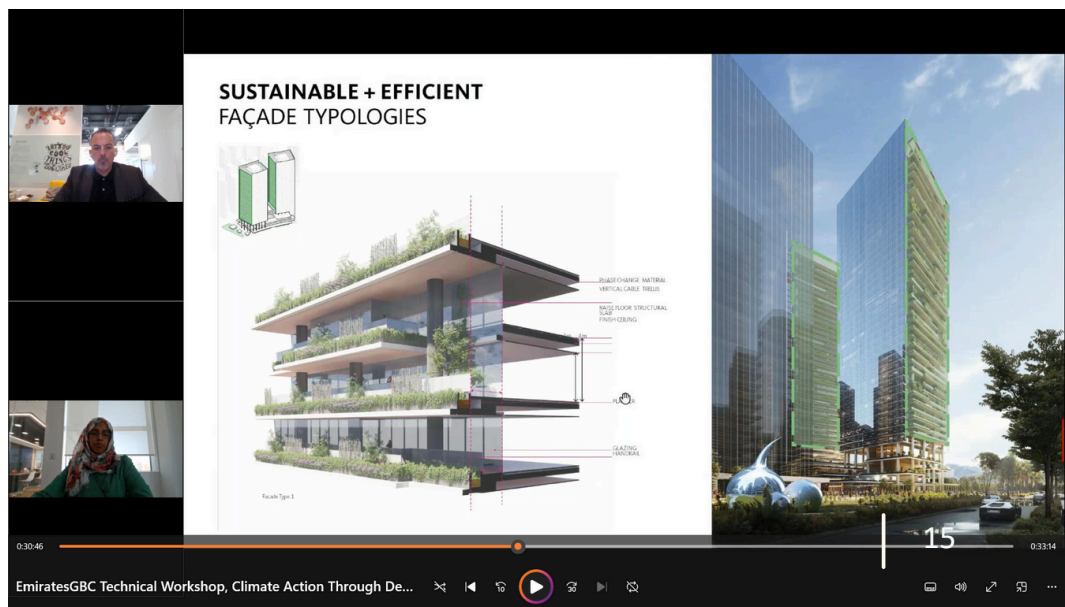
HOURS
16



ATTENDANCE
100+

Technical Workshops for 2023 covered the following topics:

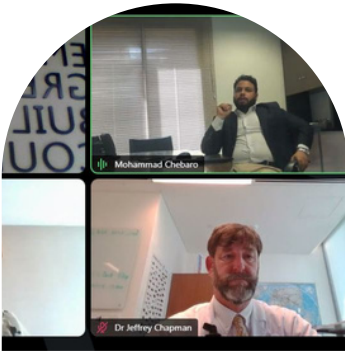
- Low Carbon Cement-More Sustainable by Design
- Applications of Styro Expanded Polystyrene
- Green Sustainable Solutions-Landscaping, Green Walls, and Green Roofs with Case Studies
- The CO2 Compensation Process & Sustainable Products
- STARS: Reducing Carbon at the Design Stage
- Climate Action through Design
- Specifying Sustainable Concrete
- Digitalizing Sustainability: Integrating IT with OT
- Transition to Clean Energy in the Built Environment
- Whole Life-Cycle and Embodied Carbon Analysis Approach for Projects and Existing Buildings
- Natural Cooling Technology Using Direct and Indirect Evaporative Cooling



Knowledge Sharing Webinars (KSW)

An online mode of interaction, developed in 2023, to mark international days of the world, such as those developed by the UN, engaging both members and non-members, and advocating for sustainability of the built environment to a vast body of attendees through various topics.

- Knowledge sharing webinars are usually in the form of panel discussions, in 2023, EGBC organized 3 knowledge sharing webinars to mark:



World Environmental Health Day

Well-being of Humans through the wellbeing of the Environment



World Environment Day

Sustainable Water Management



Outdoor Classroom Day

Sustainability and Agriculture in Outdoor School Spaces

KSW of 2023



SESSIONS
03



TOPICS
03



HOURS
03



ATTENDANCE
80+

Capacity Building

46

Sessions of capacity building

80

Hours of capacity building

1000+

Attendees for capacity building

260+

Corporate participation

OUTREACH AND IMPACT

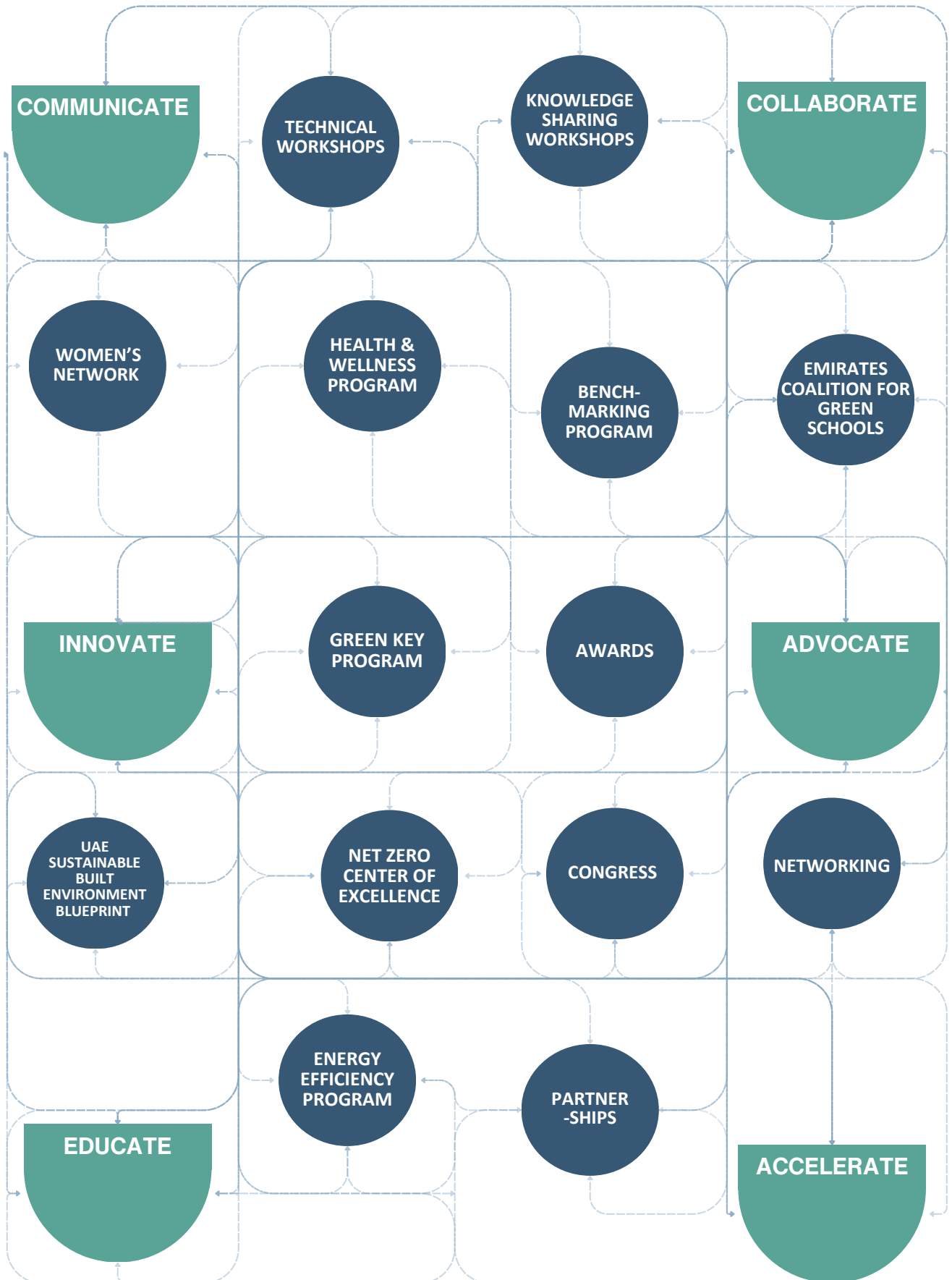
THE COUNTRY'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Since its unification, the United Arab Emirates has steadfastly transitioned into a country that puts sustainability at the forefront. Instilled within the traditions of the UAE, sustainability has become the driving force behind accelerating positive change. In relation to sustainability of the built environment, in 2015 and 2021, the UAE was the first country in the Middle East to announce its Net Zero Targets by 2030. With a record filled with initiatives to combat climate change, the UAE hosted the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28), further expediting progress towards the development of green initiatives at a local and global scale, across key sectors of the economy, including power, water, industry, buildings, transport, waste, and agriculture.

As of 2023, building on the third update of the Second Nationally Determined Contribution for the UAE, the built environment is expected to have a reduction of 56% in its emissions; from 62 MtCO₂e in 2019, to 27 MtCO₂e by 2030, contributing to 81.4% of total emissions reduction targeted by 2030. Hence, highlighting the critical role the sector must play in achieving the UAE targets, and the pivotal role the Emirates Green Building Council must play in advocating for sustainability of the built environment and in bringing together the public, private, and academic sector.



Progress Towards Goals: A look at our progress in achieving our strategic objectives, map out the strategies guiding the EmiratesGBC progress using a visual map that connects outreach to impact to strategy.



NET ZERO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

BACKGROUND



In order to support the UAE's strategies, Emirates Green Building Council established the Net Zero Centre of Excellence in January 2018, as a **think-tank and accelerator**, which aims to **advance the net zero buildings movement** in the UAE. The Net Zero Centre of Excellence is part of EmiratesGBC commitment to World Green Building Council's global [Advancing Net Zero](#) Project.

A Nearly **Zero Energy** office or residential building is defined as a highly energy efficient building with a site Energy Use Intensity (EUI) **less than 90 kWh/m²/year** and covers a significant portion of its annual energy use by renewable energy sources produced on-site or offsite.

The Net Zero Center of Excellence provides 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 **offer tools and resources to advance the net zero movement**. This includes market leading research, data collection and analysis of the market conditions, including local case studies.



The Net Zero Center of Excellence aims to (Objectives):

- 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.

ACTIONS:

1. Measure and disclose carbon

2. Reduce energy demand

3. Generate balance from renewables

4. Improve verification and rigour

IMPACT

- Conducted a **focus day** titled: **Buildings Take on Climate Action**. The focus day explored to main topics, that of achieving Net zero and Green Finance. The focus day included two presentations. First being on Exploring the Science Based Targets, and the other being Greener Finance for a Greener Built Environment. The Focus Day also included two panel discussions, the first on Buildings Taking Climate Action, Committing to A Net Zero, and the second on Financing the Net Zero Transition.
- Conducted an **online webinar** in collaboration with AHRI, focusing on **Building the Transition: A Look into Energy and Certification**. The webinar touched upon energy efficiency in the built environment, the importance of certification, and the AHRI Standard Development.
- **Presented** on **Circular Economy in the Built Environment**, looking into principles of the circular economy and the Circular Built Environment Playbook.
- Organized a **panel discussion** titled: **Water as a Precious Resource: Sustainable Water Management**. The aim of the panel discussion was to discuss water as a precious resource and sustainable ways to manage it from different points of views, that of a consultant, a hospitality practitioner, and a water specialist.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

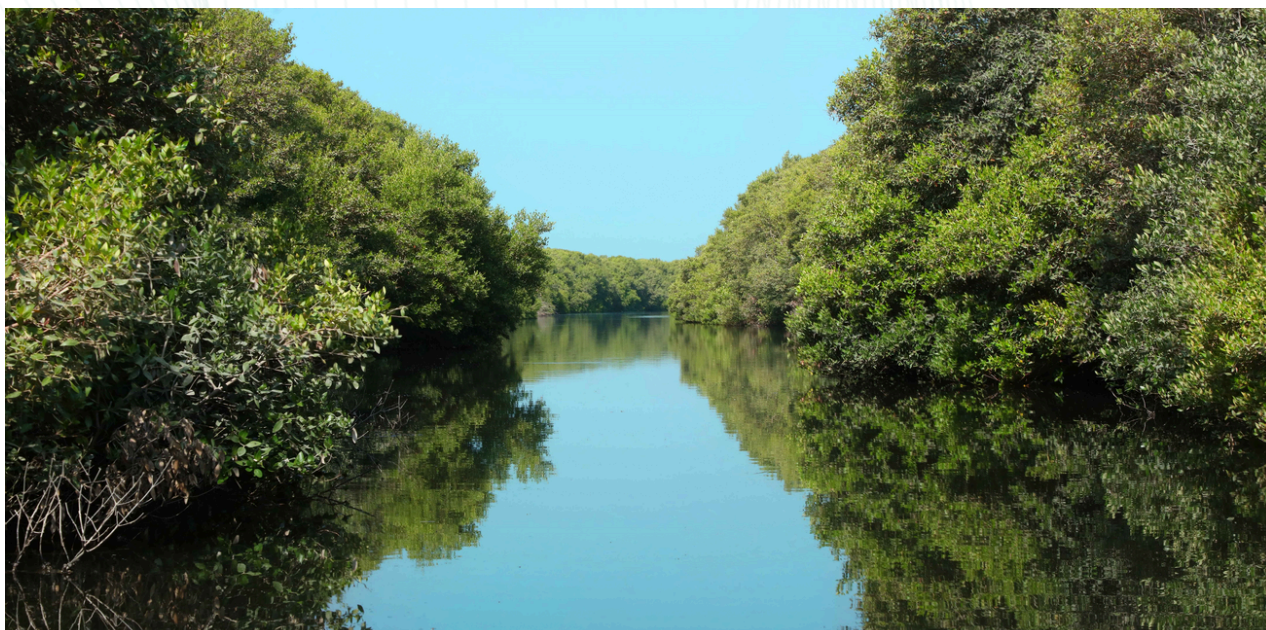
BACKGROUND



In 2013, the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) created the Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) as a market-influencing and capacity-building platform **to facilitate the reduction of the UAE's carbon footprint** through energy efficiency retrofits of existing inefficient buildings. In 2014, the EEP Database was launched to help facilitate building retrofit projects by **streamlining the energy efficiency** market in the UAE. This was followed by the publication of the Technical Guidelines for Retrofitting Existing Buildings in 2015, which provide an organized collection of economically viable methods for building owners in the UAE to achieve sustainable buildings.

With the success of the Technical Guidelines, the Building Retrofit Training (BRT) was launched in 2017 in partnership with Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Masdar to teach the fundamentals and in-depth technical knowledge of retrofits specific to the MENA region.





The EEP aims to:

- advance the energy efficiency market in the UAE by building capacity, raising awareness and fostering partnership between key stakeholders.

The EEP is to include a **database** which will help **facilitate building retrofit projects** by **streamlining the energy efficiency market** in the UAE and offer members a chance to share their qualifications with the industry. Participating in the EmiratesGBC Energy Efficiency Program is free to Corporate Members, and its Database will be developed to support the improvement of efficiency in privately owned buildings and to further support sustainability in the UAE.

Under the umbrella of the EEP, there are several projects:

1. Building retrofit training
2. Advancing Deep Retrofit Report
3. Technical guidelines for retrofitting
4. Benchmarking program



GREEN KEY PROGRAM

Green Key is an **international eco-label for tourism facilities**. Since its invention in Denmark in 1994, Green Key has been a leading standard of excellence in environmental responsibility and sustainable operation within the tourism industry. The Green Key programme is managed by the **Foundation for Environmental Education**. In the United Arab Emirates, the Green Key is managed by Emirates Green Building Council.



Green Key provides a well-proven framework for an establishment to work with its environmental management on sustainability issues, including **awareness raising**. The high environmental standards expected of these establishments are maintained through **rigorous documentation and frequent on-site audits**. Green Key is eligible for hotels, hostels, small accommodations, campsites, holiday parks, conference centres, restaurants, and attractions. After achieving the prestigious international award, the establishment can use it in its promotion. For guests, a Green Key shows that the establishment is committed to reducing the environmental impact of their stay.

The Green Key programme is linked to the **Sustainable Development Goals** 2015-2030 addressed by the United Nations. The Green Key criteria and explanatory notes for hotels and hostels have received 'Global Sustainable Tourism Council recognition' status.



GREEN KEY PROGRAM

IMPACT

Within the scope of the Green Key Program, the EmiratesGBC reached **104 Green Key certified hotels** in the UAE in 2023.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

Better Places for People

BACKGROUND

Emirates Green Building Council is proud to sit on the Steering Committee of Better Places for People, a World Green Building Council led global project which aims to create a world in which buildings are not only **good for the environment**, but also support **healthier, happier and more productive lives** for those who occupy them.

With the support of this Committee, the WorldGBC Health & Wellbeing Framework was launched providing a high-level educational resource, structured across **six core principles for health and wellbeing in the built environment**. The principles are conceptual, allowing them to be universally applicable for an international audience and diverse range of stakeholders. It can be used by actors across the value chain, from designers to occupiers, construction firms to policymakers.

The EmiratesGBC proudly took part in the committee reviewing several reports such as the Sustainable and Affordable Housing, and the Social Impact across the Built Environment: **Prioritising People throughout the building life cycle**. EmiratesGBC is also actively participating in Better Places for People strategy Feedback.



IMPACT

Under the umbrella of this program, the EmiratesGBC:

- Conducted a **roundtable discussion** titled: **Biodiversity and the Built Environment: Building in Harmony with Nature**. The roundtable discussion involved key attendees spanning developers, consultants, governmental entities, and NGOs, to discuss together, the relationship between the built environment and the natural one, as the built environment, when designed correctly, can impact biodiversity positively and help restore it leading to a stronger connection between people and their surroundings. The roundtable also tapped into the latest initiatives, policies, and best practices in preserving the natural environment.
- Conducted a **focus day** titled: **Health, Wellbeing, and Productivity in Green offices, Breaking the Space to Factors**. The focus day dove deep into different factors that make up the interior of office spaces: Thermal Comfort, Indoor Air Quality, Acoustics, Lighting, and Biophilia, and discussed how these factors influence the wellbeing of occupants, specifically employees, and how each factor can be enhanced and designed in a way that puts forward the occupant health, wellbeing, and productivity. The key outcome of the focus day was to publish a white paper that mentions insights from experts present on that day and compares the green building guidelines and ratings systems' specifications in relation to the indoor environment factors.
- Conducted a **knowledge sharing webinar** to mark **World Environmental Health Day**, titled: **Well-being of Humans through the Wellbeing of the Environment**. The aim of the webinar was to share knowledge on the environmental impacts on human wellbeing, focusing on air quality and respiratory health, climate change and its health impacts, the link between biodiversity loss and human health, and the benefits of renewable energy and sustainable transportation.





EMIRATES COALITION FOR GREEN SCHOOLS

The Emirates Coalition for Green Schools brings together the UAE's strongest advocates to create a national platform for the proliferation of green schools in the UAE. The vision of the Emirates Coalition for Green Schools is **to ensure that every child in the UAE learns in a green school within this generation**. The focus of the coalition ranges from K-12 up to tertiary level institutes.

The Coalition serves as a platform for different stakeholders to discuss and exchange information about the state of the existing schools in the UAE; raises awareness amongst stakeholders about solutions and best practices on making new and existing schools greener and disseminates this information to school administration and parents; engages schools to encourage energy efficient operations and retrofits of existing school facilities; supports policy and regulations toward improved sustainability performance in UAE schools; fosters partnerships and collaboration between private sector, government bodies, academia, and school stakeholders to improve school infrastructure; and offers tools, research, and resources to support the growth of the green schools in the UAE.





EMIRATES COALITION FOR GREEN SCHOOLS

Member Engagement, working groups, and projects:

To propel action under the Emirates Coalition for Green Schools Program, the EmiratesGBC:

- Presented the **Debate of the Built Environment** during a local University open day, enticing a discussion between students on to what extent is the built environment the cause of climate change but at the same time a solution to it.
- Initiated a **survey** with 80+ participants to understand what aspects of the school building and environment are of more importance to schools, parents, and students. The survey revealed that participants believe that indoor air quality is a topic that requires most attention and needs most awareness raising.
- Conducted a **workshop on Indoor Air Quality** with 60+ students, followed by an activity where students created their own outdoor pollution catcher.
- Started an **Indoor Environment Quality Study** on three Universities in the UAE to measure the status of the Indoor Environment Quality and advise provisions for enhancements if needed.



- Initiated and finalized a **study** on 28 schools, 4 in each Emirate, to assess the Indoor Air Quality.
- Initiated the **MENA Alliance for Green Schools**, in collaboration the EgyptGBC, LebanonGBC, and Earthna of Qatar, under the umbrella of the MENA Regional Network of GBCs.
- Conducted a **webinar** to mark **Outdoor Classroom Day**, looking into Agriculture and Outdoor School Spaces.
- Joined the Greening Education Partnership of UNESCO and participated in the first Greening Education Partnership Meeting during COP28. During the GEP, EmiratesGBC also participated in several reviews of the Greening School Quality Standard Report.
- Planned and delivered three **panel discussions**, two focusing on Indoor Air Quality, and one on Outdoor School Spaces, at the Ministry of Education Pavilion in COP28.



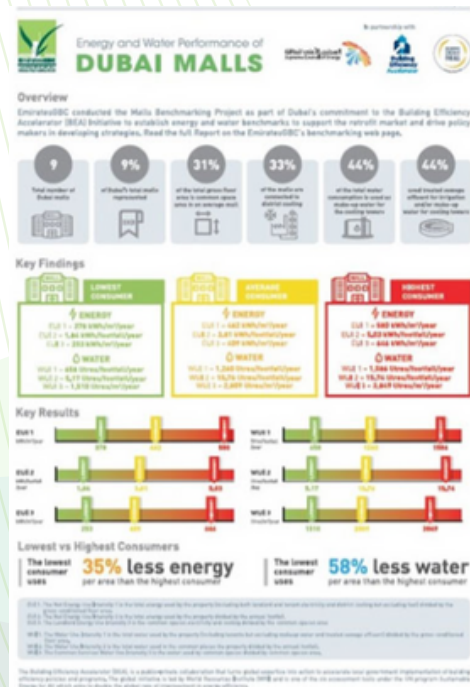
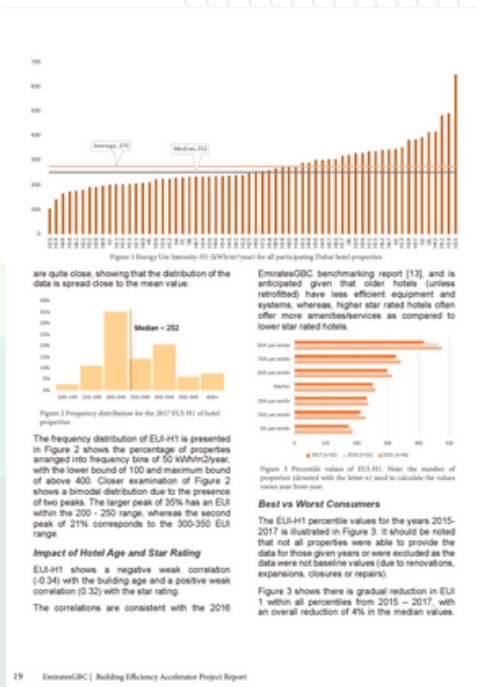


BENCHMARKING PROGRAM

The EmiratesGBC's Benchmarking Program is a first of its kind in the UAE and MENA Region. The program **monitors energy and water consumption** in a transparent, comprehensive, and cross-sector manner in order to assess and map the built environment's impact on the environment, thereby assisting in optimizing strategies, regulations, and initiatives towards better efficiencies.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 **To place the UAE at the forefront of urban sustainability** by benchmarking the performance of the buildings.
- 2 **To measure performance metrics** such as energy and water in a cross-sector manner.
- 3 **To establish a knowledge base of data and key analytical information.**



As part of the program, the EmiratesGBC initiated the **first benchmarking project in the UAE**, resulting in benchmarking 121 properties from 3 building typologies: hotels, schools, and malls. **The study sample represented:**



10%

of total number of hotel establishments



9%

of the total mall and shopping centers



10%

**of the total number of private schools
in Dubai**



5.6
SQ KM

Cumulative Gross Conditioned Floor Area

The results from the study show that there are performance disparity between the different participating properties with a large gap between the best and worst performers.

IMPACT

During 2023, the EmiratesGBC:

- Initiated the updated and expanded UAE Energy & Water Benchmark Report

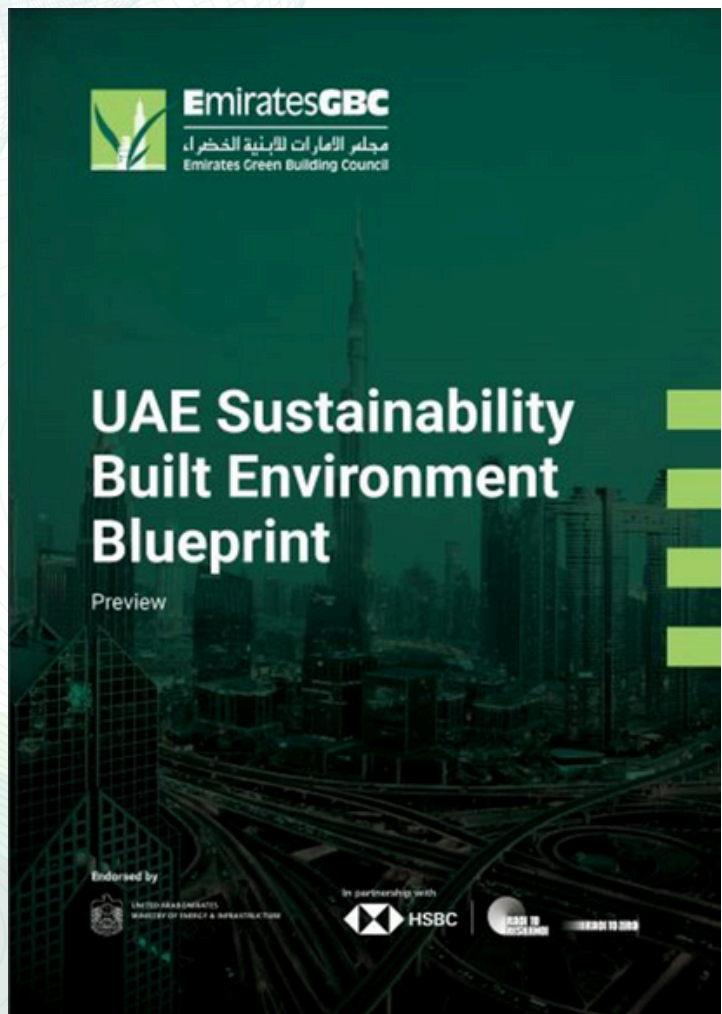


UAE SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT BLUEPRINT

The UN High-Level Champion for COP28, Her Excellency Razan Al Mubarak, whose mandate is to mobilize global non-party stakeholders for global climate action, engaged with the CEOs of the UAE’s leading developers in a roundtable during a public engagement event in Dubai on 29 May to discuss key opportunities to enhance local efforts in the sector to decarbonize.

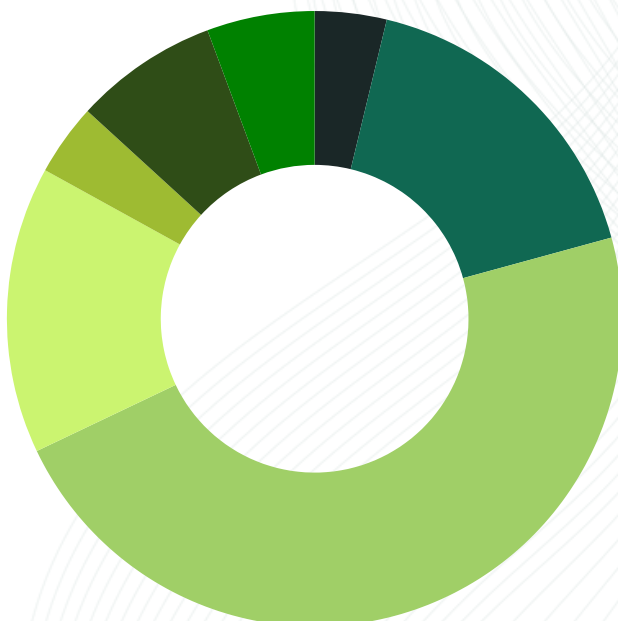
The roundtable highlighted a common desire for the leading businesses to raise ambition in decarbonizing the built environment as well as shared challenges and the existence of many best practices already applied by different organizations in the UAE.

This led to the creation of a working group comprising representatives from the leading organizations, the Climate Champions Team and led by the Emirates Green Building Council, to map the challenges faced by local developers and find the key enablers to unlocking greater climate action. The chart below summarizes the findings of a survey conducted among over 75 representatives from the industry, revealing that Policies and Regulations are seen as the key enabler by non-state actors of the built environment.





Key factors for unlocking climate action in the UAE built environment:



- **3.77%**
Tenant Awareness
- **16.98%**
Access to Green Finance
- **3.77%**
Lack of data and benchmark availability
- **47.17%**
Policies and Regulations
- **15.09%**
High costs
- **7.55%**
Lack of technical skills and knowledge
- **5.66%**
Green supply chain (Availability of building materials and systems)

This effort falls within a bigger framework of ongoing consultations and business engagement led by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment through the National Dialogue for Climate Ambition as well as the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure’s recent work and publication of “The Global ABCs Regional Roadmap for Buildings and Construction in the Arab Region” (April 2023).

- One of the key outcomes of the working group is to develop a report that will summaries the **key findings** from their continuous meetings, covering **key opportunities across core dimensions of the building sector:**

Policy	Building Materials and Systems	Green Finance	Data	Skills
Building codes	Materials sustainability specifications and market availability	Centrally endorsed sustainability standards for green building finance	Data on historical and existing building performance	Skills for building operation
Energy policy	Systems performance specifications and market availability	Historical data on building sustainability performance	Data on building retrofits	Skills for reporting
Building performance requirements		Risk return of green building finance		

- The report will also highlight current efforts being undertaken by the leadership working group in collaboration with the UAE Government, as well as the next steps that need to be taken, in order to co-design and implement both the policy and market enablers identified under each of the areas listed above.
- Building on the UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Report, the EmiratesGBC and UNFCCC will continue engaging with the developers, and other sectors in the building industry to accelerate the transition in the built environment.



IMPACT

Under the capacity of this program, the EmiratesGBC:

- Initiated the **Developers Group** which involves high level representatives from leading developers of the UAE.
- Conducted **5 workshops**, with the participation of the Developers' Group, focusing on different aspects related to the report.
- Published the **UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Report** summary.



WOMEN'S NETWORK

- In support for Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), the EmiratesGBC proudly offers the EmiratesGBC Women's Network. The **EmiratesGBC Women's Network** recognizes the need to foster further inclusivity and to build on the successes to date by supporting the professional development of women in the **MENA** region, particularly in fields which are generally male dominated such as the building and construction sectors. The Network is dedicated to the empowerment of women in the field of green buildings and sustainable development in the **UAE** and the wider MENA region. The **EmiratesGBC Women's Network** is a platform for knowledge-sharing, networking, and mentoring as well as for celebrating the positive female role models in the industry today.
- The **EmiratesGBC Women's Network** and all its activities are formally affiliated with the **Emirates Green Building Council** and is governed through an appointed steering committee.





WOMEN'S NETWORK

IMPACT



To serve the purpose of the Women Network Program, the EmiratesGBC:

- Launched the second cohort of the **Women Network Mentorship Program** with 25+ mentoring sessions. The Mentorship Program launches on International Women's Day and spans a duration of 6 months, where mentors and mentees meet for at least one hour per month to discuss career paths, future prospects, and any topic that will foster the growth of the mentee and reflect the expertise of the mentor.
- Facilitated a **round table discussion on Path to COP28: Women's Leadership, A Skill Needed for Climate Negotiations**. The aim of the roundtable was to collect insights on what women working in the green building industry in the MENA region think of leadership skills, how they harnessed them and the challenges they faced to advance in their careers and take on managerial positions.
- Conducted a **training on Stepping-up your Personal Branding and Communication Skills**, where the Women Network engaged in an interactive training to look into modes of personal branding and its impact on communication skills in relation to sustainability.



- Conducted the **Come Meet the Women Network Experts Networking Event**. The purpose of the event was to connect women together and provide them the opportunity to build on each other's expertise.
- Conducted a **webinar in July, the Hottest Month since 1880, Reasons and Solutions by Experts from EmiratesGBC Women Network**. The webinar focused on two main questions, one being reasons behind why we reached hotter and hotter climatic conditions, and how each region in is responding to this increase, and the other question being on exploring the array of solutions and initiatives at our disposal to address the profound challenges of climate change.



FLAGSHIP EVENTS

CONGRESS

In line with the Year of Sustainability and in support of COP28, the congress titled:

“ Pathway to COP28: The Role of Sustainable Built Environment in Accelerating Climate Action, ”

brought together regulators, industry, and academia to explore and discuss the essential role of the built environment in the global transition to sustainability and in accelerating climate action. The event aimed to unite efforts for a stronger impact by building upon the outcomes of COP27 and setting expectations for COP28.

The congress explored common challenges, opportunities, and strategies through sharing best practices. Regardless of the industry sector, the size, or the nature of the organization, the congress helped drive forward these transformative efforts.



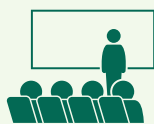
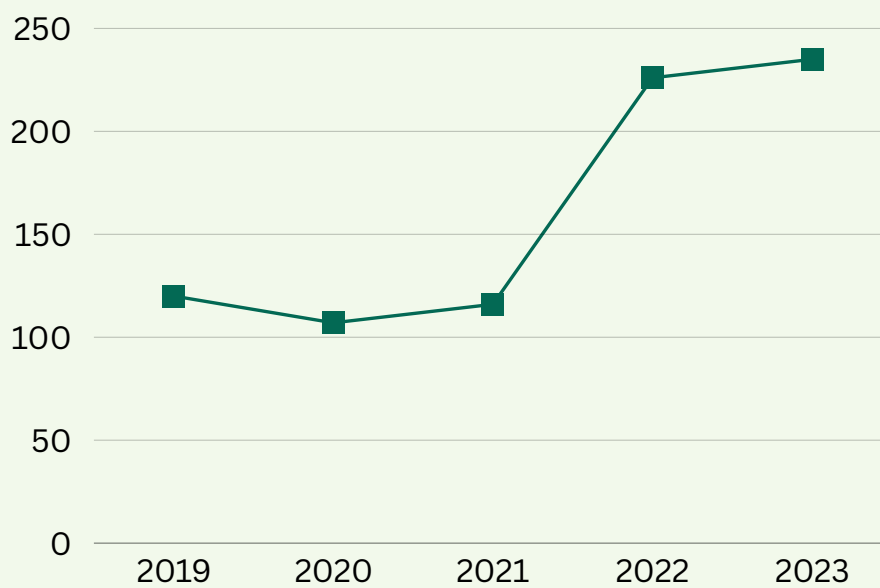


The conference covered topics around four key themes:

- 1 COP28: Prospects and Aspirations
- 2 Transition to Net Zero
- 3 Green Finance for the Built Environment
- 4 Innovation, Technology, and Resilience



The congress had a great impact. The speaker profiles included senior government representatives, industry leaders from the private sector, academia, and diplomats, with **235 attendees and more than 30 corporates involved.**



Attendance Over the Years

The outcome of the congress was an extensive collection of congress briefings highlighting the important, relevant, and impactful insights the participants shed light onto during the congress. Check out the congress briefings on the website [here](#).

MENA GREEN BUILDING AWARDS

Endorsed by the WorldGBC and in partnership with 6 MENA Green Building Councils, the MENA Green Building Awards 2023, saw the highest number of applications and judges since its inception.

The 2023 MENA Green Building Awards has 16 professional categories listed below in addition to the Dr Owainati Student Excellence Award. The purpose of the professional awards is to recognize projects, organisations and products achieving excellence through 16 distinct categories that represent the diversity of sustainability activity in the MENA region. Dr Owainati Student Excellence Award, sponsored by EmiratesGBC Co-Founder Dr. Sadek Owainati, specifically rewards a student from a recognized university in the United Arab Emirates who has conducted exceptional research work in a subject related to green buildings in the Middle East.



AWARDS



- 1 Net Zero Building Project of the Year
- 2 Green Building Project of the Year
- 3 Sustainable Design Project of the Year
- 4 Healthy Spaces Project of the Year
- 5 Retrofit Project of the Year
- 6 Green FM Organization of the Year
- 7 Green Contractor of the Year
- 8 Developer of the Year
- 9 Green Consultant of the Year
- 10 Green Building Product of the Year – Indoor Air Quality
- 11 Green Building Product of the Year – Energy Management
- 12 Green Building Product of the Year – Water Management
- 13 Green Building Material of the Year – Construction Material
- 14 Green Building Research of the Year
- 15 Best Operations & Maintenance (existing building)
- 16 Training Initiative of the Year



The MENA Green Building Awards for 2023 received:

Professional Categories

16

Applications

72

Winners

16

Dr Owainati Student Excellence Award

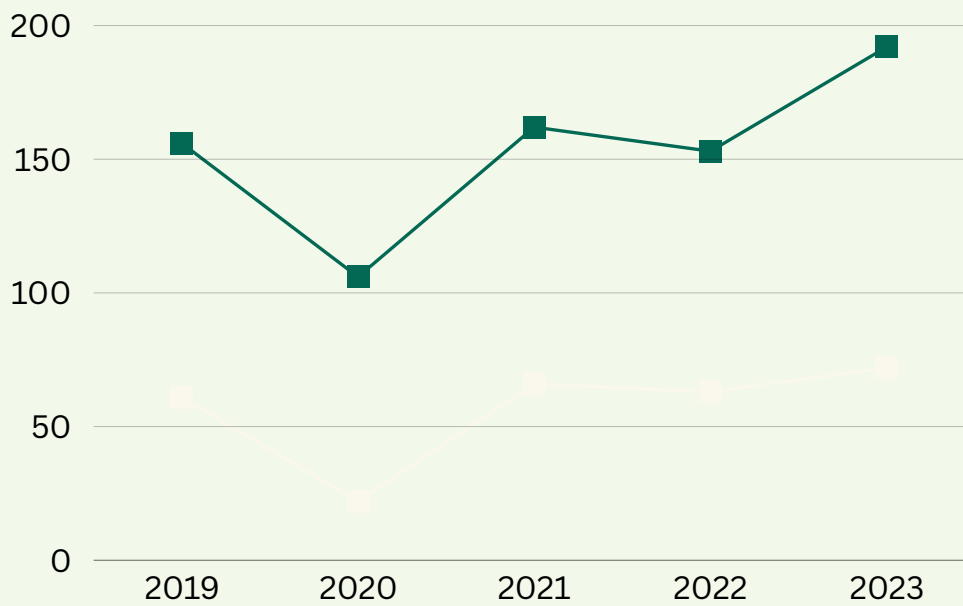
Applications

3

Winners

1

Attendance vs Applications Over 5 Years



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Attendees	156	106	162	153	192
Applications	61	22	66	63	72

NETWORKING

The EmiratesGBC launched its monthly networking events to foster **collaboration** and create **valuable opportunities**. In 2023, the EmiratesGBC successfully held **four networking meetings**, bringing together professionals and stakeholders from across the industry.



PARTNERSHIPS

Building on the pivotal role that the EmiratesGBC plays in creating a dynamic platform for corporate stakeholders, academia, NGOs, and other key players, 2023 was a year marked by significant collaborative achievements. The EmiratesGBC partnered with leading organizations to advance sustainability initiatives and drive impactful change.



2023 Partnerships:



EmiratesGBC partnered with AHRI



EmiratesGBC Partnership with Global ABC



EmiratesGBC Partnership with RCREE

LOOKING AHEAD



Reflections on our achievements in 2023 and our strategic priorities moving forward.

As we reflect on our achievements in 2023, EmiratesGBC is proud of the significant strides made in advancing sustainable building practices and environmental stewardship in the UAE. Key accomplishments include successful collaborations, impactful events, and the expansion of our educational initiatives. Our partnerships with leading organizations have paved the way for groundbreaking research, joint publications, and enhanced professional development opportunities.

Looking forward, our strategic priorities are centered around our core strategies: **Communicate, Advocate, Collaborate, Educate, Innovate, and Accelerate**. We aim to:



ACCELERATE

Drive the adoption of green building practices by fast-tracking innovative technologies and sustainable solutions within the industry. We will focus on enhancing energy efficiency and promoting environmental stewardship in all building sectors.



EDUCATE

Develop and deliver comprehensive training and certification programs to equip professionals with the skills needed to implement sustainable practices in their projects. Our educational initiatives will focus on building capacity and fostering a culture of sustainability within the industry.



COMMUNICATE

Raise awareness about the importance of sustainability in the built environment through targeted campaigns and events. We aim to engage the wider community and inspire action towards a more sustainable future.



COLLABORATE

Foster stronger partnerships with academic institutions, industry leaders, and governmental bodies to leverage collective expertise and resources. By working together, we aim to achieve greater impact and accelerate progress towards our sustainability goals.



ADVOCATE

Promote policies and industry standards that support sustainable development and energy efficiency. We will continue to engage with policymakers and stakeholders to drive regulatory changes and create a more conducive environment for green building practices.



INNOVATE

Encourage the development and implementation of cutting-edge technologies and practices that push the boundaries of sustainability in the built environment. We are committed to exploring new frontiers and setting benchmarks for excellence in green building.

EmiratesGBC remains dedicated to leading the way towards a sustainable future, building on the momentum of our past achievements, and setting ambitious goals for the coming years. Together, we can create a greener, more resilient built environment for future generations.



@Emirates Green Building Council



@EmiratesGBC



<https://emiratesgbc.org/>



@EmiratesGreenBuildingCouncil



@EmiratesGBC



@EmiratesGreenBuildingCouncil

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to our stakeholders, partners, and supporters for their contributions to our success.

Reflecting on the impactful year of 2023, EmiratesGBC extends its heartfelt thanks to our stakeholders, partners, and supporters whose invaluable contributions have been instrumental in our success. Your commitment and collaboration have helped us advance sustainable building practices and environmental stewardship in the UAE.

We are deeply grateful to our industry partners:



Your support has enabled us to foster innovation, conduct groundbreaking research, and deliver impactful educational programs. Together, we have made significant strides in promoting sustainability and setting new standards for green building practices.

To our members, volunteers, and the wider community, thank you for your ongoing dedication and engagement. Your enthusiasm and hard work are the foundation of our collective success, and we look forward to continuing our journey towards a greener, more sustainable future.

EmiratesGBC remains committed to leading the way in sustainable urban development, and we are excited to build on our achievements in the coming years with the continued support of our exceptional partners and supporters. Together, we can create a resilient and sustainable built environment for future generations.

Report prepared by: Lana AbuQulbain, Technical Engineer, EmiratesGBC

Report reviewed by: Abdullatif Albitawi, CEO, EmiratesGBC

Mohammad Juma, Former Senior Project Coordinator, EmiratesGBC

Report designed by: Muskan Fathima, Graphic Designer

EmiratesGBC would like to thank the following individuals for their support in the making of the report:

Ms. Sima Ahmad Zakzak, Senior Architecture student, College of Architecture, Arts and Design, Ajman University



EmiratesGBC

مجلس الإمارات للأبنية الخضراء
Emirates Green Building Council

Emirates Green Building Council

Excellence in Sustainability of the Built Environment



2023

**ANNUAL
REPORT**