



SUSTAINABLE COMMITMENT

DEWA has become the UAE's first government entity to join the United Nations Global Compact, highlighting Dubai's commitment to sustainability.



On the world stage, the UAE has become a major player in sustainability. This focus on sustainability is one of the six core pillars of the UAE Vision 2021, launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in 2010.

The aim of Vision 2021 is to place the UAE among the best countries in the world by the Golden Jubilee of the Union. To achieve this target, Vision 2021 is focused on sustainable environment and infrastructure, world-class healthcare, a first-rate education system, competitive knowledge economy, safe public and fair judiciary, and a cohesive society and preserved identity.

As one of the 193 member states of the United Nations, the UAE adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. The 17 SDGs outline a path towards 2030 on how to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet.

In 2016 the UAE formally ratified the Paris Climate Agreement. The UAE is a regional leader in deploying clean energy, with pioneering projects and policies in renewable energy and water efficiency. It was the first country in the Middle East to set a clean energy target of 24% by 2021. That figure has since been increased to 27% by 2021.

In this context it is hardly surprising that the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) recently became the first UAE government utility to join the

United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and adopt its ten basic principles in the fields of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. These principles are aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which apply to all countries. The UNGC is a voluntary initiative aimed at encouraging companies and organisations worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially-responsible policies. It is regarded as the world's largest organisational corporate sustainability initiative, which includes around 13,000 organisations from over 160 countries worldwide.

Joining UNGC is in line with DEWA's vision to become a sustainable, innovative world-class utility and to enhance its leading position among sustainable organisations worldwide. It is also in line with the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to achieve integrated sustainable development in Dubai and the UAE. This initiative will also be supporting the goals of the UAE Centennial Plan 2071, the UAE Vision 2021, Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Plan 2021, according to Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA.

"We have adopted sustainability as an essential part of our vision and at the heart of our business strategy," Al Tayer said when announcing DEWA's membership of the UNGC. "Sustainability is included in everything we do and in the projects we implement. We manage our projects while taking into consideration the three



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PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT



HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.
2. Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.



LABOUR

3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
4. The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.
5. The effective abolition of child labour.
6. The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.



ENVIRONMENT

7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.
8. Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.
9. Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.



ANTI-CORRUPTION

10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.



dimensions of sustainability, including economic, environmental and social dimensions.”

DEWA is no newcomer when it comes to sustainability initiatives as the emirate launched its phased Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, in November 2015, which envisages a total investment of \$163 billion over the next three decades. By 2050, Dubai will get 44% of its energy from renewable energy sources, 38% from gas, 12% from ‘clean fuels’ and 6% from nuclear energy. The plan also aims to increase energy efficiency by 40% by 2050 to make Dubai the city with the world’s lowest carbon footprint.

The biggest component of Dubai’s renewable energy sector is DEWA’s Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which is set to become the world’s largest generator of solar energy at a single location with a capacity to produce 5 gigawatt (GW) by 2030. The initial planned capacity was 1 GW, which was subsequently increased to 3 GW, and now 5 GW. Once completed, it will help reduce more than 6.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually. Bids for the first 1 GW of capacity have already been awarded and the total planned investment in the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park is \$13.6 billion.



Left: Al Sheraa (DEWA's new headquarter building) will be the tallest, largest and smartest government net Zero Energy Building (ZEB) in the world

Opposite page: A Solar Innovation Centre will be located within the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park

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In the recently concluded fourth tendering phase for a \$3.8 billion 700-megawatt expansion at Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, DEWA achieved the lowest cost of producing solar power in the world to date at 7.3 US cents per kilowatt hour (kW/h).

In a pioneering step to diversify energy sources, DEWA is working on the implementation of a pumped-storage hydroelectric power station, making use of the water stored in Hatta Dam. The 250MW project is the first of its kind in the GCC.

DEWA is a welcome addition to the UNGC with its enviable corporate strategy. The utility achieved a world record in 2017's Sustainability Culture Indicator by scoring 88.8%, which exceeds the global average of 62% achieved by the international participating entities during the same year. The Sustainability Culture Indicator is conducted annually by organisations to measure their ability to instil a culture of sustainability among the business community.

Earlier this year, DEWA and the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)

organised the second Sustainability Leadership Conference as part of its efforts to consolidate Dubai's position as a leading hub for sustainability and green economy. This event, which attracts public and private sector entities and representatives, formed part of DEWA Sustainability Week 2018 that was held from 11th to 15th March.

DEWA's headquarters is also setting new global standards. Named Al-Shera'a, which is Arabic for 'sail', the new building will be the tallest, largest and smartest 'zero energy building' in the world.

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Dubai Expo 2020 will be a showcase for the UAE's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Here too, DEWA is playing a leading role as it aims to generate half of the energy to be used by the exhibition from clean and renewable energy sources. This is to promote sustainability, a key pillar of the exhibition.

However, DEWA is not the only UAE entity to have joined the UNGC. According to the Dubai Real Estate Institute, the local representative of the UNGC network, 120 major national and international companies are members of the UN Global Compact Network UAE.

Last year, in line with the UAE's Vision 2021 and the "Year of Giving", the UNGC local network held its first annual SDG Pioneer awards honouring organisations that have been advancing the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals from the public, academic and private sectors.

There is no questioning the UAE's commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, and with government entities such as DEWA joining the UNGC more results are sure to follow. ↑