

A LETTER FROM EGBC FAMILY



Dear EmiratesGBC Community,

Our planet is the only home we will ever know, and sustainability is the only pathway I could imagine that would empower all our communities around the world to continue to live and thrive in harmony with our planet and all its ecosystems. Sustainable design is not just about protecting the planet; it is about enhancing our lives, elevating our connections with nature, and ensuring that we are growing responsibly without impacting the future of generations of our children.

Sustainable design is a dynamic, ever-evolving process that requires creativity and adaptability to address each project's unique challenges. Over the past 17 years, advancements in energy-efficient technologies, locally sourced materials, and carbon impact awareness have transformed approaches to embodied and operational carbon. Today, designers work with clients throughout a building's lifecycle, ensuring performance meets sustainability standards and supporting decarbonization efforts. Growing climate change awareness influences future-proof design decisions, while new opportunities in the GCC, like renewable energy and green hydrogen, offer transformative potential for decarbonizing critical sectors like energy, transportation, and the built environment.

Achieving ambitious carbon reduction goals requires a collective effort from all sectors of society, including regulators, designers, researchers, engineers, suppliers, and more. Every stakeholder must contribute by going beyond quick wins to address the toughest sectors to decarbonize, like the built environment, energy, and transportation. Governments can lead by investing in renewable energy, such as green hydrogen, and supporting environmentally friendly materials like green steel. Developers and contractors must adopt sustainable practices like cradle-to-cradle construction. Organizations can start their decarbonization journeys by committing to sustainability, building support, and identifying opportunities to reduce their environmental impact.

Despite notable advancements, several challenges continue to limit the broad adoption of sustainable building practices. The primary hurdle is the need for stricter regulations to drive demand for eco-friendly alternatives across the construction supply chain. Another challenge is securing sustained financial support and investment in climate tech and green technologies to enable innovation, such as green steel and low-emission cement, which are key to reducing building-related emissions. Additionally, achieving a circular economy remains crucial, requiring cradle-to-cradle production models, sustainable material use, and improved waste management throughout the entire lifecycle of buildings.

The Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) has been pivotal in advancing sustainability in the UAE by emphasizing the built environment's role in sustainable development. It has successfully brought together key stakeholders—regulators, developers, and researchers—to drive impactful solutions. One of its major achievements is the development of green building rating systems tailored to the UAE's context, alongside compiling comprehensive data to benchmark green building performance. EmiratesGBC has also provided thought leadership on various sustainability topics, from deep retrofits to workplace wellbeing, while actively educating future sustainability professionals. Moving forward, EmiratesGBC aims to continue researching region-specific sustainability challenges, enhancing building performance, and fostering capacity-building initiatives.

There is great momentum at the moment, driving forward from COP28 and with the UAE's commitments, action plans, and initiatives. There is a challenge in keeping the conversation spotlighted on the built environment and on tackling the many different dimensions required to decarbonize—from nationwide energy, transportation, and urban planning to the particulars of every building and its performance. But there is an opportunity as well, in bringing committed leaders together—to advocate together for sustainability, for greater regulation, for more green finance and investment, for innovation across the supply chain, for knowledge transfer and capacity building, and for more and more inspirational stories that truly guide the way to a better tomorrow.

The greatest legacy I would hope to leave behind is a belief that it is possible to build new projects—from buildings to cities and civil infrastructure—that are incredibly ambitious but that are still environmentally sustainable. And I believe, with the visionary leadership we have in the region, that we have incredible horizons to look forward to, as the region sets global benchmarks in delivering renewable energy, in crafting sustainable and resilient cities, and in regenerating nature for the benefit of all.

Balsam Nehme

Emirates Green Building Council Board Member

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Letter from EGBC Family
EmiratesGBC News and Updates
Upcoming EmiratesGBC Events
Previous EmiratesGBC Events
Technical Workshops for Members by Members
Green Key
Members Opportunities and Engagement
Local News
Regional News
International News

NEW MEMBERS

Industry Partner



Industry Partner

- Arabian Gulf Steel Industry

NEW MEMBERS



Corporate Member

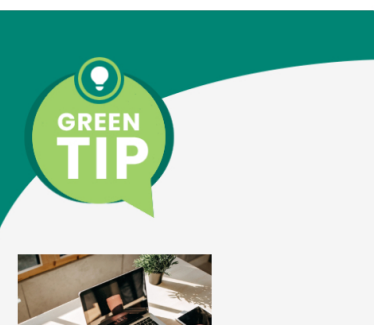
- Alpin Limited
- Creative Lab Interiors and Contracting LLC
- Berger Paints Emirates Ltd Co (LLC)

Individual Member

- Mariam AL Mazrouei
- Ameer Haider

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8 OCT** Event hosted by Her Highness Sheikh Shamma Bint Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan
- 10 OCT** EmiratesGBC Sustainability Lounge opening ceremony
- 11 OCT** Technical Workshop
- 15 OCT** The Sustainable Infrastructure Blueprint Energy, Air Quality, and Well-being focus day



MENA Green Building Awards Applications Record Participation



The MENA Green Building Awards have received an outstanding response this year, with **86 applications submitted by 59 companies from 8 countries** across the MENA region. The judging process is complete, and we are thrilled to celebrate the innovative projects and sustainable practices taking place throughout the region.

The shortlisted candidates have already been announced, and we are now planning the **ceremony and gala dinner**—a prestigious event where we can come together for networking and to recognize the companies playing a significant role in advancing sustainability.

Join us for this special occasion on **November 12, 2024**, at the **JW Marriott Marina**, starting at **6:00 PM**.

If you're interested in supporting this event, we invite you to explore sponsorship opportunities through the following link: [\[Link\]](#).

Additionally, to attend the gala dinner, please register here: [\[Registration Link\]](#).

In Conversation with Dr. Sadek Owainati: Pioneering Sustainability in the MENA Region

We are excited to present an enlightening interview series with Dr. Sadek Owainati, Co-Founder and Honorary Board Member of the Emirates Green Building Council, Founding Chair of the MENA Green Building Council Network, and sponsor of the prestigious Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award.

This series will span multiple issues, offering an in-depth look at his impactful contributions and visionary insights.

PART (3)

- **Student Excellence Awards:** As the founder and sponsor of the Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Awards, what motivated you to establish this award? How do you see it impacting the next generation of sustainability leaders?

Critical thinking and curiosity motivate us to gain knowledge and improve the quality of life. In principle, progress cannot be achieved without conducting relevant research to identify potential problems and finding solutions to improve quality and efficiency. These drivers influence and encourage academia, entrepreneurs, and forward-thinking organizations to allocate resources and time to investigate problems they face and discover new innovative solutions. These are serious and challenging tasks that demand commitment, dedication and perseverance.

When it comes to new technologies, the Arab countries generally depend on importing items that are manufactured elsewhere in the world. Those manufacturing companies allocate adequate resources to conduct research and test their items at their facilities or at other locations, but they rarely test their products for suitability and efficiency at locations that have different climatic conditions, technical capabilities, and cultural practices. Hence, I have always requested major suppliers and service providers to allocate the necessary resources to locally test and assess operation of their equipment in the Middle East, in collaboration with the private sector and academic institutions operating in the region.

Arab countries have the potential to enhance their positions in global research and innovation rankings by increasing investment, improving quality of education and developing research facilities to address local industry and services concerns. They can leverage their unique strengths through fostering collaborations between universities, research institutions and the private sector to enhance their knowledge and join the world with practical and useful application of their investigations and research.

It is in this spirit that I have been encouraged by the academia in the UAE taking an active role in performing research that relates to implementing green building principles and sustainability studies applicable to Middle Eastern conditions. This approach is also beneficial to the students and can help them gain excellent experience by exposing them to new opportunities for success in their future careers.

As a practical step towards this endeavour, I created an award in 2012 through EGBC to inspire students at universities based in the UAE to conduct research related to green building designs, technologies and sustainability topics applicable to the unique environmental and operational conditions of the Middle East and the Gulf region. I am pleased that the universities in the UAE have been keen to participate in this award, which I have been sponsoring with cash prize.



Creating a sustainable office environment is key to reducing our carbon footprint and fostering eco-friendly practices in the workplace. By implementing small yet impactful green initiatives, employees can contribute to a healthier planet.

Go Paperless: Encourage digital document sharing and storage to reduce paper use. Use electronic signatures and avoid printing unless absolutely necessary.

Energy-Efficient Devices: Opt for energy-saving office equipment, such as laptops and printers with energy-saving modes. Turn off or unplug devices when not in use to avoid phantom energy consumption.

Use Recycled Office Supplies: Choose recycled paper, pens, and notebooks, and refillable ink cartridges. This helps to minimize waste and reduce the demand for new materials.

Switch to LED Lighting: Replace traditional office lighting with LED bulbs, which use less energy and last longer, reducing both electricity consumption and replacement costs.

Encourage Reusable Items: Provide reusable cups, utensils, and plates in the office kitchen to cut down on single-use plastics. Encourage employees to bring their own water bottles and coffee mugs.

Smart Thermostat Use: Install programmable thermostats to optimize heating and cooling systems, ensuring that energy isn't wasted when the office is empty.

Recycle and Compost: Set up designated recycling and compost bins around the office for paper, plastics, and organic waste. Make sure everyone knows what can be recycled to maximize efforts.

Green Office Plants: Bring in plants to improve air quality and enhance the workspace. Plants can reduce indoor pollution and increase employee well-being and productivity.

RECENT ISSUES

VOLUME XV ISSUE 3

March 1, 2025

VOLUME XV ISSUE 2

February 1, 2025

VOLUME XV ISSUE 1

January 1, 2025

VOLUME XIV ISSUE 12

December 1, 2024

which have been sponsoring with cash prize.

I take this opportunity to thank the academia for their support and to the students who submitted their application for this year my best wishes for success. I also encourage other students at universities based in the UAE to conduct more practically-oriented research during the next academic year and submit their application to EGBC to enable them to participate in the competition for **Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award**.

Habiba Al Marashi Participated in Expert Panel on Circular Economy in the Built Environment at Saint-Gobain Event

Habiba Al Marashi, Co-Founder, Treasurer, and Vice-Chair of the Emirates Green Building Council, participated in a high-profile panel discussion at the event **"Leading by Example: Circular Economy in the Built Environment"**, hosted by **Saint-Gobain**. The event took place at **AL-MUNTADA – Knowledge Space by Saint-Gobain** in Abu Dhabi.

This event was designed to foster a collaborative dialogue and inspire meaningful change across the **UAE's construction value chain**. The focus was on the circular economy, highlighting innovative solutions and strategies for minimizing waste, maximizing resource efficiency, and advancing sustainability in the built environment.

During the panel, Habiba Al Marashi shared her expertise and insights on the critical role of the circular economy in achieving a sustainable future, emphasizing the need for cross-industry collaboration to drive tangible progress within the construction sector. Her contributions reinforced the Emirates Green Building Council's ongoing commitment to sustainability leadership and innovation in the region's built environment.

Habiba Al Marashi Contributed to Panel Discussion on Transformative Climate Actions for a Resilient UAE

Habiba Al Marashi, Co-Founder, Treasurer, and Vice-Chair of the Emirates Green Building Council, in the panel discussion **"Exploring Transformative Climate Actions for a Resilient UAE"**, hosted by **Cundall**.

The panel brought together experts to address key topics critical to achieving climate resilience in the UAE, including **climate-resilient design**, **adaptive reuse**, and **sustainable development**. The discussion also covered the use of **data and technology** to inform sustainable practices, the evolution of **standards for resilient buildings**, and the importance of **cross-sector collaboration** in driving meaningful progress toward climate goals.

The session was moderated by **Mario Saab**, Emirates Green Building Council Board Member, and served as an engaging platform to share insights on the innovations and strategies required to create a more resilient and sustainable built environment in the UAE. Habiba Al Marashi's contributions reinforced the Emirates Green Building Council's leadership in advancing sustainable practices and climate action across the region.

Announcing the Launch of the Pan Arab Certified Energy Management Professionals (PA-CEMP) Training Program

We are delighted to announce the official launch of the Pan Arab Certified Energy Management Professionals (PA-CEMP) training program by Emirates Green Building Council! This initiative underscores our commitment to advancing sustainability and energy efficiency practices in the Arab region. Developed in collaboration with the League of Arab States Energy Department and endorsed by the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministerial Council of Electricity, PA-CEMP is a professional certification program tailored for Energy Managers in the Arab region. The program, managed by the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), aims to assist energy efficiency policy makers and program administrators in planning and implementing comprehensive Energy Efficiency programs and measures. Key highlights of PA-CEMP include comprehensive technical content developed by industry leaders, hands-on learning sessions to apply theoretical concepts in real-world scenarios, and a prestigious certification upon successful completion. This certification will enhance the professional profile and credibility of energy management professionals, equipping them with the latest technologies and energy essentials to drive sustainable practices across the region.

To have more information and you missed the online introductory webinar you can watch it through this [link](#)

For more details and to register for the training course, please visit this [link](#).

CEO Abdullatif Albitawi Speaks on Climate Risk at FAB Sectorial Summit

Abdulatif Albitawi, Emirates Green building Council CEO participated in a fireside chat titled **"Urban Planning for Climate Change – Tackling Climate Risk"** during the **FAB Sectorial Summit**, held on **September 5th in Dubai**. The summit, which brought together leaders from the **GCC real estate and construction sectors**, provided a platform to discuss key challenges and opportunities related to sustainability and climate resilience in urban development. Abdulatif shared valuable insights on how proactive urban planning can mitigate climate risks and drive sustainable growth across the region.

Webinar on Indoor Air Quality: Insights from Industry Experts

online webinar held in partnership with the **International Code Council** and **AMCA International** focused on

the latest advancements in **I-Codes**, **AMCA standards**, and sustainable practices aimed at optimizing indoor air quality. Attendees gained valuable insights into **building safety codes**, **ventilation standards**, and **sustainable design strategies**. **Mr. Abdullatif Albitawi**, CEO of the **Emirates Green Building Council**, was a panelist, where he shared his expertise on advancing sustainable building practices. The engaging discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration and innovation in shaping a safer and more sustainable built environment.

The 2nd Edition of the RAK Energy Summit

The second edition of the RAK Energy Summit will be held under the esteemed patronage of H.H. Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah. Scheduled for 27 and 28 November 2024 at the Al Hamra International Exhibition & Conference Center in Ras Al Khaimah, this summit promises to be a premier gathering of international and regional experts and leaders from both the government and private sectors. Attendees will engage in insightful discussions on emerging trends and initiatives in sustainable energy, exploring innovative solutions to the pressing challenges in this field.

Emirates Green Building Council members will receive a 10% discount on attendance. Additionally, technology and solution providers from our community will enjoy a 10% discount for exhibiting or presenting a showcase at the event.

Shaping Greener Economies at 2nd Annual Future Sustainability Forum 24

In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges, Future Sustainability Forum serves as a beacon of hope, uniting diverse perspectives and expertise to chart a path towards greener economies and a more resilient planet. Building on the highly successful launch last year, the 2nd edition of Future Sustainability Forum, organized by Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), encapsulates UAE's recent focus on accomplishing Net-Zero goals by 2050. The Forum brings together visionaries, innovators, and change-makers from across the globe to collaborate, inspire, and drive meaningful action towards a more sustainable future.

Under the theme "Shaping Greener Economies", the Forum explores the intersection of sustainability, innovation, blended finance and collective action. From renewable energy and circular economy practices to climate resilience and social equity, conferences will delve into the multifaceted aspects of sustainability, recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental, economic, and social well-being.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to connect with Global Sustainability leaders at the 2nd Annual Future Sustainability Forum, happening on 4-5 December 2024 at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai.

Let's shape Greener economies together! 🌱

1. Want to Sponsor? <https://bit.ly/45GmSv5>
2. Book Tickets: <https://bit.ly/3xkwfnu>
3. Know More: <https://bit.ly/3xte5Qr>

UPCOMING EMIRATESGBC EVENTS

Exciting Launch of the Sustainability Lounge at Emirates GBC

The Emirates Green Building Council is proud to unveil the Sustainability Lounge, a co-working space designed to foster innovation, collaboration, and education in sustainable building practices. This vibrant hub will serve as a central meeting point for EmiratesGBC members dedicated to enhancing sustainability in the built environment.

With a focus on occupant well-being and functionality for productive work, the Lounge promises to provide a comfortable atmosphere for networking and sharing expertise, making it an ideal space for exchanging ideas and advancing excellence in sustainability.

The grand opening ceremony will take place on October 10th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, featuring Cristina Gamboa, CEO of the World Green Building Council, who will officially inaugurate the Lounge alongside the EmiratesGBC management committee. Attendees will also have the opportunity to explore innovative contributions from members, showcasing their unique approaches to sustainability.

Emirates Green Building Council, in collaboration with Leading Hospitality Services Focus Day

Emirates Green Building Council, in collaboration with Leading Hospitality Services, is hosting a special event focused on pioneering sustainable solutions in the building industry. This event will cover essential topics such as:

- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Green Building Practices**
- **Carbon Footprint Reduction**

A key feature of the event will be the introduction of **iPaint**, an innovative electricity-free cooling paint. This groundbreaking technology provides an energy-efficient alternative to traditional air conditioning systems, helping to significantly reduce energy consumption and lower environmental impact by naturally cooling

indoor spaces.

Additionally, **AQMC – Air Quality Management Company** will offer valuable insights into improving indoor air quality. As buildings play a crucial role in promoting well-being, AQMC will share strategies that enhance both energy efficiency and health through better air quality management.

Event Details:

- **Date:** October 15, 2024
 - **Time:** 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 - **Venue:** MAZI Restaurant, St. Regis, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi
- Secure your spot [here](#).

PREVIOUS EMIRATESGBC EVENTS

Innovating for Tomorrow: EGBC's Impact at World Green Building Week

Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) marked World Green Building Week 2024 (September 9-15) with a series of workshops and panel discussions around the theme of **#BuildingTheTransition** into a better future

As part of the weeklong observance EGBC hosted a series of events in person and online to inspire dialogue and foster innovation in green building.

Day 1 The session opened with **The Women Network Panel Discussion** titled **Using their Voices; How Four Women are Building the Transition**. Moderated by Michelle Sebastian, Regional CX Insights and Sustainability Manager, Hilti, the online session will be attended by panelists including Amira Ayoub, Regional Head for World Green Building Council's (WorldGBC) Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region, Alyaa Al Wahab, Head of Project Management, Rider Levett Bucknall and Komal Sharma, Strategy and Governance lead Emirates NBD. The session highlighted insights from influential women leading the way in sustainability.

Hosted at EXPO City, Day 2 featured a closed session for the **Embodied Carbon Work group**, that discussed innovative ideas to promote and advance material sustainability by reducing embodied carbon. The workshop explored actionable strategies and initiatives that can have a meaningful impact on our shared sustainability goals and agreed to invite more participants from the government sector, developers and contractors. This session was followed up by a workshop opened to the public titled:

The Understanding Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) and Health Product Declarations (HPD). Presented by Rima Boudaba, Senior Sustainability Consultant at AESG, and Dania Ramadan, Carbon Assessment Coordinator at AESG. The session provided insights and knowledge to make more sustainable and health-conscious choices in construction and manufacturing.

For the first time in many years six regional GBCs came together to highlight and discuss **National Building Rating Systems – Challenges in the MENA Region** through an online panel discussion. Experts representing Egypt, Emirates, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine green building councils explored the national green building rating systems used in their countries, highlighted their benefits and addressed the key challenges. The participants called for further collaboration between the MENA Green Building Councils to promote sustainability in the built environment in Arab countries.

The week was concluded by a roundtable for the Developer Leaders Forum hosted in EXPO City and attended by the CSO of UAE based developers. This meeting is another one in a series of meetings and roundtables for the forum to agree on sustainable criteria to be adopted for future buildings in the UAE. The work of this forum which started prior to COP28 in May 2023 initiated by the UAE High Level Champion, is seeing a growing international interest and appreciation.

EMIRATESGBC TECHNICAL WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS BY MEMBERS

EmiratesGBC 10th Technical Workshop: By Tenet

The EmiratesGBC 10th Technical Workshop for members by members will be in **"Building Resilience: Climate Risk Management for Construction"** By Tenet

The workshop will be held in-person, on the 11th of October, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM at Emirates Green Building council sustainability lounge

Invitation sent to our members!

GREEN KEY



Green Key

The **Green Key programme** is a leading standard of excellence in the field of environmental responsibility and sustainable operation within the tourism industry. It is operated internationally under the management of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) with Head Offices in Copenhagen, Denmark. FEE has national member organisations in more than 70 countries worldwide where Emirates Green Building Council is the national operator in the United Arab Emirates.

MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES AND ENGAGEMENTS

Building a Greener Future with Digital Twin Technology and Smart Solutions

Katrin Schoerhuber

Director Business Development Middle East and Africa

NHANCE DIGITAL BUILDTECH

Sustainability in the built environment is essential for a resilient future. Digital twin technology plays a critical role in advancing green building practices by providing real-time insights into energy use, space optimization, and resource management. By creating virtual replicas of buildings, digital twins enable stakeholders to test scenarios, reduce inefficiencies, and enhance overall performance. This technology not only improves operational efficiency but also reduces carbon footprints, promoting long-term environmental and economic benefits. Integrating smart building platforms like these helps align with global sustainability goals and accelerates the journey toward greener urban spaces.

Net Zero Waste

Anas Ramiz Lulu

Team Lead (Sustainability – Environment – Waste)

Ramboll

Achieving net zero waste is essential for environmental sustainability and societal well-being. It involves diverting all waste from landfills and incineration through recycling, composting, and reducing waste at the source. This approach conserves resources and reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, key in the fight against climate change.

Net zero waste has significant economic and social benefits. Reducing waste improves resource efficiency, lowering costs for businesses and municipalities. By adopting circular economy principles, industries can reuse materials, reduce reliance on virgin resources, and mitigate supply chain risks. Additionally, net zero waste initiatives create jobs in recycling and composting, boosting the economy.

Key strategies for achieving net zero waste include reducing waste generation through better product design, promoting reusable items, and encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable practices. Enhancing recycling and composting infrastructure with advanced technologies and public education is also crucial.

In the UAE, innovative waste-to-energy plants in Sharjah and Dubai, along with future projects in Abu-Dhabi, are advancing the nation's ambitious waste management goals. The Sharjah plant converts waste into renewable energy, reducing landfill usage and greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, Dubai's facility generates electricity from waste, supporting the city's energy needs while enhancing sustainability efforts. Abu-Dhabi's plans for its own waste-to-energy plant will further strengthen the UAE's progress in achieving net zero waste. These projects demonstrate how technology can reduce environmental impact and set new standards for waste management in the region.

Ultimately, achieving net zero waste requires collaboration across society to minimize waste, conserve resources, and protect the planet for future generations.

Member Opportunities!

We want to feature your success stories. Please share with us your accomplishments in relation to the green building industry and allow us to feature you in our newsletter.

For more information, please contact reema.aburuqaa@emiratesgbc.org.

EmiratesGBC Women Network Monthly Spotlight!

Alida Saleh

Head of Sustainability Consulting – MEA

1. Who You Are:

- Beyond your professional role, tell us a bit about yourself. What drives and inspires you personally? Whether it's hobbies, interests, or values, we'd love to learn more about the person behind the professional achievements. (Limit your answer to 100 words)

I am a dynamic leader and passionate advocate for a sustainable future. My commitment extends beyond my professional role; I serve as a Senior Advisor to the UN High-Level Climate Champions team, mobilizing non-state actors to accelerate climate action.

As a champion of youth empowerment, I dedicate my time to mentoring and guiding young people. I develop programs to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed for a successful future. My current volunteer role as a sustainability lead for a global sports and arts festival in Dubai exemplifies my dedication to creating a positive impact.

My personal passions fuel my drive for change. My love for animals, travel, and cultural exploration enriches my life and inspires me to build a better world. My commitment to climate action, youth empowerment, and creating a sustainable future is unwavering.

2. Career Journey and Achievements:

- Can you share a brief overview of your career journey in the field of sustainability? What achievements or projects are you most proud of in advancing sustainable practices? (Limit your answer to 100 words)

My career journey has been marked by my dedication to advancing sustainable practices. Starting in Canada and the Americas, I have held senior leadership positions at Fortune 500 companies. Currently, I head JLL's sustainability division in the Middle East and Africa.

My achievements include being recognized as the Middle East's Most Inspirational Woman in Leadership and ranking among the Top 50 Global Women in Sustainability. My leadership in launching the UAE Sustainability Built Environment Blueprint at COP28 has been instrumental in driving decarbonization efforts in the region. I continue to make significant contributions to the field through my work and advocacy by expanding the initiative to other countries and regions. I launched the first Climate Pledge for the Built Environment in Azerbaijan and I am working with the top developers, government entities and IFI's to decarbonize the real estate sector ahead of COP29 to bring transformative change in Azerbaijan.

3. Challenges and Triumphs:

- As a woman in the sustainability sector, have you faced any specific challenges, and how did you overcome them? On the flip side, what triumphs or successes have been particularly meaningful in your career? (Limit your answer to 100 words)

As a woman navigating the corporate landscape, I have faced gender bias and scepticism. Despite facing challenges, my unwavering determination, effective communication skills, and deep technical expertise have propelled me forward. By bridging the gap between complex concepts and tangible benefits, I have inspired global organizations to embrace change. My ability to simplify complex topics, foster stakeholder buy-in, and demonstrate my deep understanding of business issues has been instrumental in my success. Notably, I have transformed organizations previously resistant to change, driving long-term profitability and organizational success.

4. Impact and Advice:

- How do you see your role contributing to the broader goals of sustainability? Additionally, what advice would you offer to other women aspiring to make a difference in the field of sustainability? (Limit your answer to 100 words)

My influence extends far beyond my immediate role, contributing significantly to broader sustainability goals through my regional client work and global stakeholder engagement. My systems-based approach ensures a comprehensive and impactful response to climate challenges.

For women aspiring to make a difference in sustainability, I offer a powerful message: remain true to your values, believe in yourself, and approach your work with radical optimism. I would like to emphasize the importance of perseverance, belief in the face of obstacles, and encourage women to contribute their unique perspectives and skills to the field.

EmiratesGBC Technical Programs

Members of the **Emirates Green Building Council** can join in any of our technical programs with this [link](#), to advance their knowledge on the program's relevant topics, contribute to its growth, and sponsor its events. We are working on several ideas related to our programs: Coalition for Green Schools, Better Places for People, Net Zero Center of Excellence, Energy Efficiency, Green Key and Benchmarking Program.

Kindly send us an email to office@emiratesgbc.org to inquire about any of the mentioned technical programs.

EmiratesGBC Office Room M-21 is now available for meetings and workshops!

If you are interested in using the EmiratesGBC office space for a workshop or a meeting, kindly get in touch with us at 04-3468244 or send us an email to office@emiratesgbc.org. The office room is fully equipped with AV and provides a pleasant environment for focused meetings or training workshops.

LOCAL NEWS

BUILDING THE UAE'S SUSTAINABLE FINANCE ECOSYSTEM: A FRAMEWORK FOR ENABLING INVESTMENTS IN THE GREEN TRANSITION

The UAE government has been a leader in promoting the green transition within the MENA region. Over the past decade, it has implemented various national and local strategies while investing in key sustainability projects. Significant initiatives include the establishment of Noor, the world's largest single-site solar power plant, and the development of Masdar City, a sustainable urban project in Abu Dhabi. Additionally, the introduction of AeroFarms, the largest indoor vertical farm, showcases the UAE's commitment to innovative technologies that significantly reduce water usage compared to traditional farming methods.

[Read More](#) →

REGIONAL NEWS

\$600m in civils contracts awarded on Kenitra-Marrakech high-speed rail line

Morocco is advancing its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by investing in a high-speed rail line connecting Kenitra and Marrakech. Recently, two contracts were awarded for civil engineering work on this project, which aims to enhance sustainable transportation options in the region. The rail line, part of a broader initiative to connect major urban centers while promoting eco-friendly travel, is designed to allow trains to operate at speeds of 320 km/h upon completion in time for the 2030 World Cup. This initiative reflects Morocco's commitment to sustainability and the reduction of emissions from traditional vehicular transport.

[Read More](#) →

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Renewable Energy Projects: Powering a Sustainable Future

Renewable energy projects are essential in global decarbonisation efforts, primarily as countries work towards the ambitious goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. Many countries have committed to expanding renewable energy resources and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by mid-century to meet these targets. This requires a massive scale-up of renewable energy infrastructure to fill the gap left by phasing out fossil fuels. As a result, these projects are crucial for reducing carbon footprints and enabling the global transition to a sustainable energy future.

[Read More](#) →

