

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
& ENVIRONMENT



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
وزارة التغير المناخي  
والبيئة

تقرير حالة

# الاقتصاد الأخضر

لحولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
STATE OF

## GREEN ECONOMY REPORT



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## His Excellency Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi

Minister of Climate Change and Environment  
United Arab Emirates

The year 2015 marked the first significant milestone in the UAE's long-term journey towards a Green Economy since the Green Economy for Sustainable Development initiative was launched in 2012 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

In January 2015, the UAE Cabinet issued a decision to approve and to implement the *UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030* as an overarching framework of actions for this initiative. In line with the *UAE Vision 2021* and each emirate's long-term development plan, five strategic objectives and twelve main programs were set under the new agenda. Also in January, the *UAE State of Green Economy Report* was unveiled as the first report in the world to publicly detail the latest status of a country's transformation towards a Green Economy.

In June, the Emirates Green Development Council (EGDC) was established under the chairmanship of our ministry to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Green Agenda and to ensure effective collaboration between federal and local

authorities as well as stakeholders. By September, five committees were established under EGDC in line with the five strategic objectives of the UAE Green Agenda, each of which was mandated to formulate and implement two or three main programs. In December, these committees presented and agreed on a total of 96 initiatives for the short-term implementation of the Green Agenda. To monitor and review the progress, 41 UAE Green Key Performance Indicators (Green KPIs) were also determined covering environmental, economic and social sustainability.

This second edition of the *UAE State of Green Economy Report* presents the progress made at the national and local levels during 2015 in detail and benchmarks the UAE's current standing in realizing a Green Economy and its advancement against global commitments to sustainable development. As 2015 was celebrated as "the Year of Innovation" in the UAE, the report also features the country's ten innovation initiatives that would support the Green Economy transformation. Furthermore, and in advance of hosting the Global Roundtable of the

United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) in Dubai in October 2016, the country's state of green finance was reviewed. I hope that this report not only provides you with a comprehensive overview of the government's plan and diverse public and private-sector efforts, but also opens up new opportunities for the readers of this report to take part in our initiatives.

Following the restructuring of the federal government in February 2016, our ministry was renamed the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), and mandated to manage all aspects related to international and domestic environmental and climate change affairs while continuing to chair the Council\*. This major change indicates a clear commitment from the country's leadership to address climate change and environmental imperatives and accelerate preparation for the post-oil future. I look forward to making our best efforts to realize the Green Economy transformation and to continuously reporting to you about our progression in this journey.

\* EGDC has been reorganized into the UAE Council on Climate Change and Environment in September 2016.

## 2015 Highlights – At A Glance

### Green Economy around the world

In 2015,  
the world agreed on

**17**

**Sustainable Development  
Goals for 2030 and limiting  
global warming  
below 2°C**

To end poverty and  
pursue a sustainable  
future,

**over 65**

nations have already  
embarked on  
**Green Economy**

**48**

countries are  
developing  
**Green Economy plans**

To help mobilize  
financing for attaining  
SDGs, the UAE hosts the

**UNEP FI Global  
Roundtable**

in **October 2016**



# The UAE Green Agenda



In January 2015, the UAE Cabinet approved the **UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030** as an overarching framework of Green Economy actions

The Green Agenda consists of **5** strategic objectives, **12** main programs, and **31** sub-programs

In June 2015, the Emirates Green Development Council was formed with representatives from **6** federal ministries and **7** emirates

The Council coordinates and monitors the implementation of the Green Agenda.

## UAE's 10 green innovations



1

Public buildings powered by sunshine



2

Turning air into water



3

Desalination without fossil fuels



4

Flight fueled by salt-tolerant plants



5

New business models for clean energy

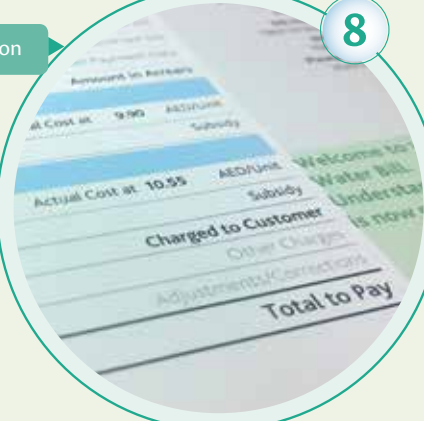
6



Tagging tires for safety

Price reforms for rational consumption

8



7



Sustainable fishing by remote monitoring

9



Preparing infrastructure for electric vehicles

Spatial planning by satellite images

10



## Activities of Green Agenda committees

Committee on Knowledge-based Economic Diversification  
(Coordinator: Ministry of Economy)



- Student scholarships for environmental studies
- Financing schemes for green industries



EGDC established  
**5**  
committees according to the UAE Green Agenda's strategic objectives.

The committees identified a total of  
**96**  
initiatives to implement in the next few years.

Committee on Development and Quality of Life (Coordinator: Ministry of Infrastructure Development)



- Program on sustainable buildings and construction
- Vocational training for green jobs



Committee on Sustainable Environment  
(Coordinator: Ministry of Climate Change and Environment)



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National and Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon projects

National eco-labels for products and services



Integrated energy and water management strategy

Energy data management and automation project



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Committee on Clean Energy and Climate Change Adaptation  
(Coordinator: Ministry of Energy)



Supporting establishment of waste-to-energy plants

Vehicle fuel efficiency standards



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

Committee on Green Life & Sustainable Use of Resources  
(Coordinator: Ministry of Energy)





## Green Economy initiatives in the 7 emirates

**Abu Dhabi** Sustainable street lighting project

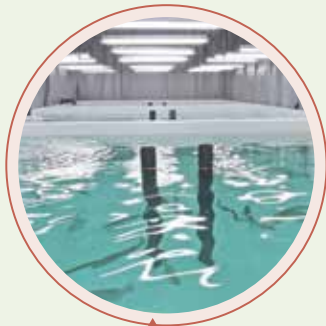


**Ajman** New parks for a healthy life



**Sharjah** Zero-waste-to-landfill goal

**Dubai** Mandatory use of sustainable concrete



**Fujairah** Initiative for environmental sustainability



**Umm Al Quwain** Fish hatchery for marine resources



**Ras Al Khaimah** The most efficient desalination plant

## State of Green Finance in the UAE

According to a survey of 79 UAE financial institutions,

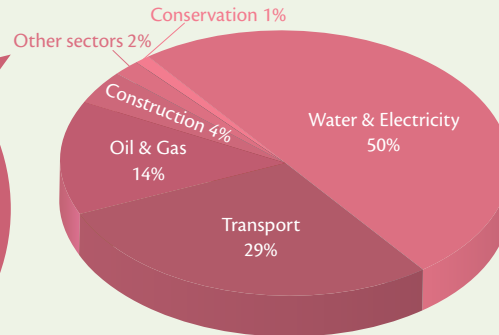
**48%**

already provide a **green finance** product or service.

At least **0.27%** of the GDP has been invested in domestic green investment.

The institutions that implement green finance practices are motivated by **CSR, cost savings, reputation** and **competitive advantage**.

**50%** of domestic investment went to the **water and electricity** sector;  
**29%** to the transport and logistics sector.



Respondent institutions' green investment by sector

In preparation for the UNEP FI Global Roundtable, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAEE) organized **2** high-level national meetings and is convening a **steering group** together with Central Bank of the UAE.

## UAE's performance towards a Green Economy

### 41 Green KPIs

were selected to monitor and review the UAE's overall progress towards a Green Economy.

Highlights of key performance according to the Green Agenda's 5 strategic objectives are:

#### Competitive Knowledge Economy

Global Competitiveness Index: **17<sup>th</sup>** in the world

Share of non-oil GDP: **68.6%**

#### Social Development & Quality of Life

Domestic material consumption per GDP: **478 g/\$**

Human Development Index: **41<sup>st</sup>** in the world

#### Sustainable Environment & Valued Natural Resources

Ecological Footprint: **7.75 global ha** per capita

Environmental Performance Index: **25<sup>th</sup>** in the world

#### Clean Energy & Climate Action

Carbon intensity of electricity production: **600gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh**  
(including water desalination)

GHG emissions per GDP: **340 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/\$**

#### Green Life & Sustainable Use of Resources

Municipal water consumption per GDP: **2.98 l/\$**

Electricity consumption per GDP: **0.18 kWh/\$**

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