

Advancing Net Zero Snapshot: UAE



Context

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is one of the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement in September 2016 through its submission of its [Intended Nationally Determined Contribution](#) to limit carbon emissions and improve environmental resilience, with the support of federal strategies such as the UAE Vision 2021 and UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030. 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.



1. Measure and Disclose Carbon

The Zero Energy & Zero Carbon certifications allow buildings to validate their performance based on actual data over a twelve-month performance period, during which time the project must be occupied consistently with its stated use.



2. Reduce Energy Demand

Research such as the Building Efficiency Accelerator Benchmarking Project Report adapted certifications to the local market and drive market uptake of reduced energy demand buildings. Projects in the UAE may refer to this [table](#) for specific efficiency targets for hotels and hotel apartments, resorts, schools, and malls.



3. Generate Balance from Renewables

100% of the building's energy needs must be supplied by either on-site or off-site renewable generation (depending on the certification being targeted) on a net annual basis.



4. Improve Verification and Rigour

Corporate and government engagement through policy roundtables, meetings and stakeholder consultation serve to influence policy and regulations including improvement of building performance verification and resilience. Capacity building through research, training sessions and technical workshops help stimulate industry towards advanced levels of building assessment.

Methodology and Verification

- Projects applying for either ILFI certification must submit all relevant reporting to ILFI which is then reviewed by EmiratesGBC.
- New projects applying for Zero Carbon certification must not exceed 500 kg-CO₂e/m².

Additional Information

- Publications such as the Green Building [City Market Briefs](#) and the monthly newsletters showcase global and local best practices, with information on programmes and events.
- EmiratesGBC's [MENA Green Building Awards](#) launched a new award category for 2019: [Zero Buildings](#).
- EmiratesGBC Annual Congress - brings together government, GBC members and corporates to advance net zero policy.

Find out more

- [EmiratesGBC Net Zero Centre of Excellence](#)
- [Defining Nearly Zero Energy Buildings – 2017 Report](#)
- [Zero Energy Certification](#)
- [Zero Carbon Certification](#)
- [WorldGBC's Advancing Net Zero global project](#)
- [Dubai's Building Efficiency Accelerator Project Report - January 2019](#)

Pathways: Multiple

EmiratesGBC Net Zero Centre of Excellence:

EmiratesGBC provides leadership through its Net Zero Centre of Excellence program, a think-tank and accelerator combining multiple pathways advancing the net zero agenda. It 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. EmiratesGBC's tools and resources help guide industry to tackle challenges and provide relevant solutions. This is supplemented with corporate and government engagement facilitated at local and national levels through policy round tables, one-on-one meetings and facilitation as well as participation in stakeholder consultation workshops, advisory committees, trainings and technical workshops.

Partnership with the International Living Future Institute (ILFI) allows for the certification of buildings under the Zero Energy and Zero Carbon certifications, with EmiratesGBC acting as the exclusive auditor within the UAE.

GBC nZEB Definition

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.

Advancing Net Zero

WorldGBC's global project to accelerate uptake of net zero carbon buildings to 100% by 2050. These snapshots outline specific GBC action, and how it relates to the project framework, including the four key principles shown left.