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# Society & Environment

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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



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مصرف أبوظبي الإسلامي

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## Chairman's Message



**Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

As the world convened at COP30 in November, the UAE reaffirmed its leadership in driving climate action through a policy of collaboration, cooperation and environmental stewardship. Our nation's commitment, demonstrated through tangible actions and visionary policies, is intrinsically linked with innovative progress and builds on the groundbreaking outcomes of COP28 in Dubai.

The discussions at COP30 reaffirm that addressing the unprecedented environmental challenges of our era demand a paradigm shift, with advanced technologies playing a pivotal role in mitigating climate risks and forging new pathways for ecological regeneration and resilience.

At Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, we believe that Artificial Intelligence (AI), when deployed responsibly and ethically, holds the key to unlocking solutions that were once beyond our grasp. From optimizing resource management to predicting climate patterns with greater accuracy, AI offers a transformative lens through which we can redefine our relationship with the planet.

It is precisely this conviction that drives the Zayed International Foundation to announce a landmark initiative: the 1st Dubai International Conference & Exhibition on Green Artificial Intelligence. Organised in partnership with the Dubai Police Academy and Curtin University Dubai, this conference gathers the brightest minds to discuss AI for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity tracking to green algorithms and smart city planning.

The UAE's vision for a diversified, sustainable economy is deeply intertwined with technological innovation. By convening this conference, we reinforce our commitment to harnessing the full potential of Green AI to build more resilient ecosystems, smarter cities, and a more sustainable world.

We invite all stakeholders - researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society - to join us in Dubai from January 24-25 to forge a collaborative path forward, turning ambitious climate goals into actionable, AI-powered realities. I look forward to welcoming you all!

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إلى مقام صاحب السمو الشيخ

**محمد بن زايد آل نهيان**

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# Zayed International Foundation for the Environment announces inaugural Dubai International Conference & Exhibition on Green Artificial Intelligence 2026

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has announced the launch of the 1st Dubai International Conference & Exhibition on Green Artificial Intelligence in strategic partnership with the Dubai Police Academy and Curtin University Dubai.

Scheduled for January 24-25, 2026, at Dubai Police Academy, this landmark event held under the theme 'Harnessing Technology to Achieve Environmental Sustainability,' will explore the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence

(AI) in addressing the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

Deepening its commitment to advancing environmental sustainability through technological innovation, the Zayed International Foundation will convene global thought leaders, environmental scientists, AI researchers, and urban planners to explore the transformative opportunities offered by AI in addressing global sustainability challenges such as climate risks, ecosystem decline, and environmental pressures,



and position Dubai as a hub for sustainable technological innovation.

An impressive roster of keynote speakers will ignite discussions and inspire actionable strategies for a greener, AI-powered future. Over two days, they will share their insights on varied themes including environmental infrastructure protection, AI governance, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity tracking, smart cities, clean mobility, climate modeling, green AI design, and reducing AI's environmental footprint.

Prominent speakers at the event include:

- Prof. Dr. Mohamed Bin Fahad, Chairman, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, UAE
- Prof. Chithirai Pon Selvan, Director of Research and Head of School, Science and Engineering, Curtin University Dubai
- Dr. Gregory Carpenter, a renowned cybersecurity and submolecular information security expert
- Dr. Joseph J. Niemela, Scientist Emeritus, Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)
- Dr. May Siksik, Co-Lead of the United Nations IGF Dynamic Coalition on Emerging Tech Governance; Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Innovation Network Global (ING)
- Dr. Anour F A Dafa-Alla, author and AI & Data Privacy Researcher, AI, Cybersecurity, Data Mining, and Digital Content Localizer

Announcing the launch and emphasizing the conference's critical role, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Bin Fahad, Chairman, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, said: "I am immensely proud to announce the 1st Dubai International Conference & Exhibition on Green Artificial Intelligence here in Dubai. We firmly believe AI is not just a tool, but a powerful ally in our fight for a sustainable future, and this landmark event will illuminate the path forward for responsible

*To be held on January 24-25, the event convenes global experts to forge AI-driven pathways for environmental resilience and a sustainable future*

technological advancement. We are convening the brightest minds to ensure these cutting-edge solutions are responsibly deployed for the benefit of our planet and future generations."

Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Committee, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, added, "The intersection of artificial intelligence and environmental sustainability offers unprecedented avenues for innovation. The 1st Dubai International Conference & Exhibition on Green Artificial Intelligence will not only showcase groundbreaking research but also foster crucial collaborations to translate these advancements into tangible, impactful solutions for our planet, ensuring that progress is both smart and green."

Prof. Chithirai Pon Selvan, Director of Research and Head of School, Science and Engineering, Curtin University Dubai, said: "Our collaboration to host the 1st Dubai International Conference &





Exhibition on Green Artificial Intelligence underscores Curtin University Dubai's commitment to advancing the scientific and engineering disciplines and to bridge cutting-edge AI research with critical environmental action. We eagerly anticipate the robust discussions and collaborative pathways that will emerge, accelerating the translation of innovative AI methodologies into scalable strategies for ecological restoration and resilience."

The conference promises a rich program designed to engage a diverse audience, including GreenTech innovators, educators and civil society leaders.

Key topics will span:

- Environmental Infrastructure Protection
- Environmental Policy & Governance of AI Solutions
- Combating Misinformation in Environmental Science
- AI for Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Resource Management
- Tracking & Enhancing Biodiversity, Marine Ecosystems & Wildlife with AI

- Smart & Sustainable Cities and Green Urban Planning
- Energy-efficient Infrastructure, Clean Mobility & Ecosystem Intelligence
- Real-time Climate Modelling & Disaster Risk Prediction
- Green Algorithms & Sustainable AI Design
- Measuring & Reducing Water Consumption and Emissions from Data Centers & AI Model Training

Attendees can anticipate an engaging two days packed with insightful keynote addresses, multiple focused presentations, interactive Q&A sessions, open discussions, and networking opportunities during coffee and lunch breaks, culminating in a closing ceremony with certificate distribution.

The Foundation's debut Conference & Exhibition on Green Artificial Intelligence represents a pivotal moment for the global environmental and technology communities to unite, innovate, and drive forward a shared vision of a sustainable future powered by responsible AI.

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## UAE President directs expansion of protected natural areas in Abu Dhabi

UAE NEWS

**U**AE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has directed an increase in the area of nature reserves in Abu Dhabi to reach 20% of the emirate's total land area. The announcement coincided with the UAE's historic hosting of the IUCN World Conservation Congress for the first time in the region.

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi will manage the newly designated reserves, which will cover 4,581 square kilometres. These will be added to the Zayed Protected Areas Network, which currently includes 13 terrestrial and six marine reserves. The total number of protected areas will rise to 26, spanning 22,821 square kilometres.

The expansion includes the designation of three new terrestrial reserves: Al Wathba Fossil Dunes Reserve, Liwa Groundwater Reservoir Reserve, and Ghaf Natural Reserve. It also includes the expansion of the Qasr Al Sarab Reserve, and the establishment of two new marine reserves: Abu

Al Abyad Marine Reserve and Sir Bani Yas and Desert Islands Marine Reserve. Additionally, the Ras Ghanada Marine Reserve will be expanded.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi Board of Directors, said: "This expansion will safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems for future generations and strengthen Abu Dhabi's global standing as a model for environmental stewardship, continuing the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan."

Mohammed Ahmed Al Bowardi, Vice Chairman of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, said: "These directives reaffirm the UAE's unwavering commitment to biodiversity conservation and protecting wildlife across the emirate. Expanding nature reserves will support innovative programmes for wildlife preservation and ensure the sustainability of our natural environment."



**CONGRATULATIONS TO**

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**Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
President of The United Arab Emirates

His Highness Sheikh  
**Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
Vice President, Prime Minister of UAE and  
Ruler of Dubai

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COVER STORY

# UAE reaffirms leadership in multilateral climate action at COP30 in Belém

Two years after hosting COP28 in Dubai, where nations forged the historic UAE Consensus to transition away from fossil fuels, the focus at COP30 has turned to sustaining and scaling that momentum

United Nations  
Climate Change

At the opening of the 30th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Belém, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to multilateral climate cooperation, emphasizing the importance of collective progress and strengthened international partnerships to accelerate global implementation and keep the 1.5°C goal within reach.

His Excellency Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, led the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegation. The UAE's integrated and forward-looking approach to climate diplomacy – based on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society ethos – reflects the importance of close and reliable partnerships as a key pillar of the country's strategy.

As part of the framework of unified national efforts, demonstrating the country's continuous leadership from COP28 to COP30, the UAE delegation consisted of ministries, senior officials, negotiators, and experts from across national institutions. This reflects the country's national vision as a leading and trusted partner in advancing cooperation, and a significant force in building consensus and strengthening



collective climate ambition through cooperation and mutual trust.

The UAE's agenda at COP30 was focused on turning ambition into implementation through practical, inclusive, and partnership-driven solutions. Building on the historic UAE Consensus adopted at COP28, the country prioritizes the acceleration of climate finance delivery, the expansion of clean energy innovation, and the empowerment of youth and communities to

connects water to all pillars of development – strengthening resilience, promoting innovation, and advancing a shared vision for sustainable water futures ahead of the conference, which will be held in December 2026.

The UAE's participation at COP30 reinforces its role as a pioneering country for global solutions and as a key partner to all nations seeking practical pathways towards a just, equitable, and inclusive transition in climate action. Through its steadfast commitment to partnership and implementation, the UAE continues to demonstrate forward-looking leadership in shaping inclusive, science-based solutions that benefit people and the planet, inspiring collective action toward a sustainable and prosperous global future.

### **UAE at 'Belém Climate Summit'**

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, led the UAE delegation at the Belém Climate Summit in Brazil, joined by Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Nature.

The two-day summit, which took place on 6–7 November 2025 in the Brazilian Amazon, brought together heads of state and government, ministers, and leaders of international organisations. Convened by Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the Summit aimed to address key challenges and forge commitments in the global fight against climate change.

Dr. Al Dahak delivered the UAE statement on the first day of the summit and participated in a high-level roundtable on Energy Transition to address critical challenges facing the world.

Razan Al Mubarak further highlighted the UAE's commitment to nature-based solutions at the launch of the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF).

shape long-term sustainable pathways – while also advancing nature-based and adaptation efforts that strengthen resilience and leverage commitments into tangible results.

As it advances preparations to co-host the 2026 United Nations Water Conference alongside the Republic of Senegal, the UAE is championing a strategic global effort to place water at the center of sustainable development and climate action. Through high-level dialogues and the expansion of cross-sector partnerships, the UAE is advancing an integrated approach that



## *The UAE's leadership offers a compelling model for balancing growth with responsibility*

In a statement, Dr. Al Dahak emphasised that the UAE is working to include all six greenhouse gases in its transparency report, thereby strengthening its ability to respond effectively to climate change.

Dr. Al Dahak also outlined the UAE's national efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



These encompass a wide range of clean and renewable energy projects, the transformation of the agriculture and food sectors, and infrastructure initiatives. These initiatives are designed to ensure best practices and establish a global model for comprehensive sustainability across all sectors.



Dr. Al Dahak urged all parties to join the global efforts against climate change, advocating for enhanced transparency and more ambitious climate goals within their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). She also reiterated the UAE's call for nations to increase their collective efforts to embrace the indicators for the global goal on adaptation, thereby enabling all parties to transparently and clearly measure collective progress.

The Minister underscored the importance of strengthening climate finance, particularly by achieving the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). She also stressed the need to strengthen the resources and skills required to meet climate objectives and ensure no one is left behind.

On 7th November, during the "Energy Transition" thematic session, Dr. Al Dahak outlined the strategic imperative for an energy transition that ensures energy access and security for all. She reiterated the UAE's strong commitment to effectively contributing to global climate action and efforts to limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5°C. This commitment aligns with the UAE Consensus, which aims to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030.



## Brazil delivers a carbon-neutral COP30; 130,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> offset and certified

UAE NEWS

The Government of Brazil, together with CAIXA, carried out the compensation of 130,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> generated by the activities of the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), held in Belém, Pará. The compensation was recognized by the United Nations through the Voluntary Cancellation Certificate, issued on 12 November 2025.

The certificate confirms the voluntary cancellation of 130,000 carbon credits (CERs - Certified Emission Reductions) from the project "CDM Project 6573: Caixa Econômica Federal Solid Waste Management and Carbon Finance Project," registered under the United Nations Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Each credit corresponds to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent removed from or prevented from entering the atmosphere.

The initiative ensures that all emissions related to the operation of the Conference, including internal transport, energy use, cooling systems, logistics, and other activities, were neutralized in accordance with international sustainability best practices for major multilateral events. This was ratified through a duly audited emissions

inventory that accounts for the volume of greenhouse gases emitted.

The cancellation process was carried out in accordance with the official procedures of the CDM Registry, guaranteeing full traceability and transparency. The event's emissions inventory exceeded 100% neutralization due to the voluntary compensations made by participants who contributed spontaneously to the event's neutrality.

Through this action, Brazil reinforced its commitment to delivering a sustainable COP, aligned with global objectives for climate mitigation and emission reduction. It represents yet another milestone of the COP of the Amazon, which brought together diverse representation, environmental responsibility, and innovation in impact management.



## COP30, Climate Champions accelerate implementation in Belém, unveil five-year vision for next era of climate action

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COP30

The COP30 Presidency, alongside the Climate High-Level Champions, marked a major step forward in delivering real-world climate action, capping an impactful two-week thematic program with the unveiling of a new Five-Year Vision for the Global Climate Action Agenda.

Building on the progress leading up to Belém, the vision charts an action-oriented, coordinated pathway for governments, businesses, investors, cities, subnational regions, Indigenous Peoples, and civil society to accelerate delivery of the Paris Agreement. This vision supports the shift from negotiations to implementation through the redefined Action Agenda, which has unified and optimized more than 480 initiatives to deliver 117 concrete delivery plans — known as Plans to Accelerate Solutions.

The vision builds on the work on the ground in the lead up to and at Belém, spanning progress across six thematic and 30 key objectives to speed the scaling and delivery of real-world climate progress.

The COP30 Action Agenda represents a step-change for the implementation process, consolidating a decade of initiatives and



**Redefined COP30 Action Agenda delivers 117 Plans to Accelerate Solutions and progress from more than 480 existing initiatives in Belém**



innovations into a single, action-oriented framework aligned with the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake. Activation Groups, composed of cross-sector experts and practitioners, worked together throughout the year to spur progress spanning energy, forests, food systems, cities, human development, and finance, collaborating to unlock bottlenecks and scale solutions grounded in real-world impact.

This marks the first time national governments and non-State actors have worked this closely under one coordinated agenda of action, with continuity, science, transparency and delivery at its core.

Throughout COP30, accelerated progress could be seen across every axis and key objective. The newly released COP30 Outcomes Report consolidates these achievements — from strengthened global grids, forest finance breakthroughs, and scaled regenerative agriculture, to transformative progress on resilience, health systems, and adaptation finance. The Report also outlines how the Five-

Year Vision will maintain momentum beyond Belém by anchoring climate action in credible, accountable, and whole-of-society cooperation.

This year, the COP30 Presidency and Climate High-Level Champions revamped the Global Climate Action Agenda framework, building on a decade of progress since COP21 and through the Marrakech Partnership to coordinate and accelerate the delivery of crucial climate efforts. For an unprecedented time, active coalitions are unified under a single, coherent and flexible structure - one designed to prioritize practical implementation, strengthen transparency, and drive real-world results.

Across the six axes, partners from all corners of the climate ecosystem showcased tangible progress, demonstrating how the Action Agenda is accelerating delivery for people, the economy and the planet:

**Axis 1: Transitioning Energy, Industry & Transport** — A global coalition of partners agreed to drive a USD1 trillion investment plan to triple



“To accelerate implementation, we need a coalition of the willing. We need a whole-of-society approach. Our countries are not able to implement the commitments made here without the private sector, the investors, the subnational governments and all our societies.”

- Ana Toni, COP30 CEO

renewable capacity by 2030, supported by strengthened grid ecosystems and major utility commitments, including USD148 billion annually for grids and storage.

**Axis 2: Stewarding Forests, Oceans & Biodiversity** — Governments delivered early on the USD1.7B COP26 land-tenure pledge and renewed it with an additional USD1.5-2B, ensuring 20% of finance flows directly to Indigenous Peoples and local communities and advancing protection across 160 million hectares.

**Axis 3: Transforming Agriculture & Food Systems** — More than 40 partners reported USD9B invested for regenerative landscapes, reaching 12 million farmers across 110+ countries and restoring over 210 million hectares.

**Axis 4: Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure & Water** — Cities and regions representing 25,000 buildings and USD400B in annual turnover cut 850,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2024, while new finance platforms aim to reach 200 cities by 2028.

**Axis 5: Fostering Human & Social Development** — The Belém Health Action Plan, the world’s first international climate-health adaptation plan, launched with support from 35 philanthropies

and USD300M committed, while 437.7 million people have already gained resilience benefits through Race to Resilience campaigns.

**Axis 6: Unleashing Enablers & Accelerators** — Adaptation Finance (FINI) partners announced USD1 trillion in investible adaptation pipelines by 2028, with 20% coming from private investors, plus USD500 million from multilateral agencies and philanthropies, to build local capacity for implementation.

Together, these outcomes demonstrate that when the world aligns around a clear purpose and collaborative action, tangible progress can be accelerated at the pace and scale this moment demands.

Belém has shown what’s possible when governments, businesses, investors, cities, subnational regions, Indigenous Peoples, and civil society move forward as one, in the spirit of the Global Mutirão, to drive solutions that support people and the planet.

Through the refined Action Agenda, building on the dedicated efforts of the past decade, COP30 marks the next era of decisive climate action, one defined by accelerated implementation.



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# UAE unveils first green district at Expo City Dubai, pioneering sustainable industrial development

The Green Innovation District aims to redefine industrial development by seamlessly integrating economic growth with environmental sustainability and social responsibility



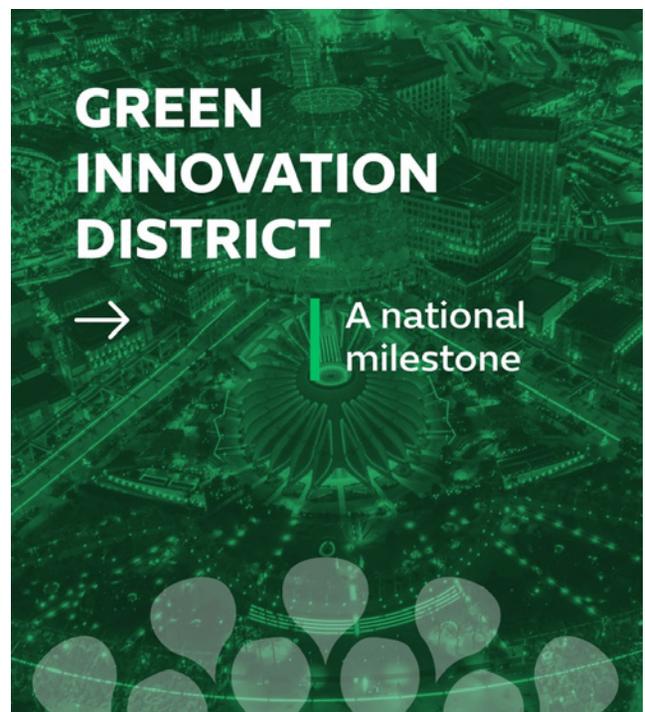
The Ministry of Economy and Tourism and Expo City Dubai have launched the UAE's first Green Innovation District, a landmark initiative set to redefine industrial development by seamlessly integrating economic growth with environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

The new Green Innovation District, set up in collaboration with four strategic partners, will serve as a powerful catalyst for sustainable industrial growth, attracting global businesses to the UAE and actively accelerating the nation's ambitious economic diversification and climate action goals, as set out in the UAE's Net Zero 2050 Strategy, Centennial 2071 Plan, and National Investment Strategy 2031.

Supporting eco-conscious businesses – specifically those committed to clean energy, circular economy and green tech – to decarbonise and grow, Expo City Dubai is seen as the Green Innovation District's ideal location, with its ready-built sustainable infrastructure, award-winning world-class free zone, commitment to net zero by 2050 and legacy of driving sustainable, innovative progress. This is underscored by its strategic location, mid-way between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, on a critical logistics link that connects Jebel Ali Port with Al Maktoum International Airport, optimising global trade.

Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy and Tourism, said, "The launch of the UAE's first Green Innovation District at Expo City Dubai marks a major milestone in advancing the nation's long-term economic and climate ambitions. Designed to serve as a powerful catalyst for sustainable economic growth, the District will provide an incubative environment for enterprises and startups driving the UAE's green economy and circular economy transition, creating a sustainable environment that supports long-term, comprehensive economic and social development."

*Located at Expo City Dubai, the District leverages sustainable infrastructure and a strategic logistical hub to attract eco-conscious global businesses*



He added, "Businesses operating within the District will also benefit from the Green Intellectual Property (IP) roadmap launched by the Ministry of Economy and Tourism, which aims to foster innovation, accelerate technology localisation and support the development of new projects in the new economy, environmental sustainability, and the circular economy. Furthermore, the initiative will enhance the UAE's attractiveness as a destination for green and sustainable innovations and investments, in line with the 'We the UAE 2031' vision. Together with



Expo City Dubai, we are forging an ecosystem where economic prosperity and environmental responsibility are inextricably linked, developing sustainable solutions in the fields of clean energy and green electricity, including generating electricity from renewable sources such as solar, water, and wind.”

Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and CEO of Expo City Dubai Authority, said, “The Green Innovation District builds on Expo City Dubai’s sustainability credentials to cultivate an interconnected community operating on a circular economy model. It speaks to our core purpose, to drive meaningful change that maximises our environmental, social and economic impact, and will become a highly attractive destination for eco-conscious businesses worldwide.”

Building on the Strategic Master Agreement with the Ministry of Economy and Tourism, Intesa Sanpaolo will act as a strategic partner in developing the Green Innovation District at Expo City Dubai. Intesa Sanpaolo, one of the largest banking groups in the Eurozone and the only

Italian bank with a presence in the UAE, is a pioneer in circular economy finance. With more than EUR 14 billion already disbursed at the global level, it aims to accelerate projects that turn sustainability into long-term growth.

As part of its presence within the newly launched Green Innovation District, Nestlé, the world’s largest food and beverage company, will support the transfer of knowledge and technical expertise. Majra, the UAE’s National Corporate Social Responsibility Fund, will help direct environmental projects and innovative enterprises to set up at the Green Innovation District through its initiatives such as the ‘Sustainable Impact Challenge’ and ‘Future 100’, helping create a national platform that brings together sustainable innovation, responsible investment, and positive social impact.

Palmade is a Dubai-born manufacturer transforming locally discarded date palm leaves into high-quality biodegradable products. By turning this abundant natural resource into sustainable alternatives, Palmade is driving circular innovation rooted in the UAE. The

*This landmark initiative aligns with the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 initiative and National Investment Strategy 2031*



company's transition to a new facility at Expo City Dubai marks a pivotal step in scaling production, accelerating research and development, and introducing new product lines that contribute to a more sustainable future.

Dr. Maria Hanif Al Qassim, Assistant Under-Secretary for Policies and Economic Studies Sector, Ministry of Economy and Tourism, said, "The Green Innovation District reflects a shared commitment, nationally and internationally, to fostering responsible investment, enabling green entrepreneurship, and driving climate action. Central to this vision is the promotion of green intellectual property and technologies that translate innovation into tangible environmental and economic impact."

Aiming to yield significant reductions in carbon emissions and waste, the Green Innovation District caters to businesses involved in the circular economy, urban farming, or those that

offer sustainable products and services.

As part of its free zone - which was awarded fDi Intelligence's global "rising star" free zone for 2025 - Expo City will launch UAE's first Green Licence to attract entities committed to environmental and social sustainability. Offering a host of incentives to enable companies to set up and operate seamlessly, the licence will encourage innovation and support green business growth. In addition, the Ministry of Economy will set up an IPO Office at Expo City Dubai to encourage research and development. Both initiatives will increase the UAE's competitiveness in attracting innovators and advance sustainable practices.

Expo City, designed as a blueprint for sustainable urban development, builds on its legacy as the home of Expo 2020 Dubai and COP28 to create a hub for sustainability pioneers and a driver of meaningful partnerships and initiatives.

# Global Future Councils 2025: Experts call for aligning environmental policies, ensuring climate justice

International experts stressed aligning economic growth with environmental protection for a sustainable future

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CLIMATE ACTION



*Discussions at the event explored pathways for clean air, robust climate governance, and the energy-water-agriculture nexus*

Aligning climate and development policies is critical to ensure a sustainable environmental future and protect the planet, stressed international experts and specialists at the Annual Meetings of the Global Future Councils 2025 in Dubai.

Organised by the UAE Government in partnership with the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Global Future Councils serve as a global knowledge-sharing platform, enhancing international collaboration as a means to transform shared visions into tangible positive results. Takeaways from the Councils form the basis that informs the agenda of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos.

As part of the event's Environment theme, Council members engaged in in-depth discussions, emphasising the need to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental protection, and highlighting just transition and innovative financing as key drivers to expedite environmental action. This, in turn, enhances the resilience of ecological and economic systems, paving the way for a healthier, more inclusive future for generations to come.

The Environment Councils focused on key pathways to building a more sustainable future, with participants exploring a range of pressing environmental challenges facing the world and discussing the need to develop a comprehensive vision to tackle air pollution, enhance climate and nature governance, and strengthen the nexus

between energy, water, and agriculture.

The Global Future Council on Clean Air highlighted the growing global challenge of air pollution and its wide-ranging economic, health, and developmental consequences. Citing World Health Organisation (WHO) data indicating that 99% of the world's population breathe air that does not meet health standards, the Council explored pathways to achieve clean air globally by 2030.

Members discussed comprehensive policy frameworks capable of unlocking the interconnected environmental, economic, and social benefits of improved air quality, ensuring a healthier future for generations to come.

The Global Future Council on Climate and Nature Governance underscored the importance of embedding climate considerations within institutional frameworks and governance strategies. This integration, participants noted, strengthens the resilience and sustainability of businesses against emerging legal and regulatory risks associated with climate change.

Furthermore, the Council discussed incentives and policies that enable decision makers to accelerate the shift towards a net-zero global economy that is more aligned with nature.

The Global Future Council on Energy Nexus discussed the need for a deeper understanding of the vital interconnections between energy, water,



agriculture, and economic development. Participants in the Council stressed the importance of enhanced cooperation between the public and private sectors to align the energy transition agenda with environmental and economic challenges, thus ensuring long-term energy security and sustainability.

The Global Future Council on Energy Technology Frontiers examined the increasing influence of advanced technologies on future energy systems. It underscored the need to accelerate the development of innovative technological solutions to create inclusive, flexible, and adaptive energy systems by 2050. This effort must consider the social, economic, and

environmental aspects of the energy transition.

The Global Future Council on Equitable Transition noted the importance of issuing innovative economic and regulatory policies to ensure an equitable distribution of costs and benefits associated with climate action. These policies aim to bridge the gap between climate goals and social justice requirements, helping to establish a sustainable development model that leaves no one behind.

The Global Future Council on Forest Economy addressed the challenges posed by the increasing demand for wood and bio-based products, along with the subsequent pressures on natural forests.

## *Councils highlighted innovative financing and equitable transition policies to accelerate environmental action*

The Council called for implementing integrated strategies that combine conservation efforts with commercial activities, while encouraging investment in land restoration and the protection of biodiversity.

The Global Future Council on Innovative Financing for Nature and Climate discussed methods to enhance financial resources aimed at climate and environmental transformation. With more than USD3 trillion required annually to achieve carbon neutrality goals, participants explored new financing models and multilateral partnerships capable of empowering communities to create positive outcomes for nature and accelerate the global transition towards carbon neutrality.

The Global Future Council on Natural Capital addressed the importance of integrating natural assets into economic decision-making. It highlighted the necessity of launching global initiatives to assess and safeguard natural capital as a key pillar for achieving sustainable development.

Bringing together over 700 experts from 93 countries, the Global Future Councils 2025 featured 37 Councils that cover six broad themes: Technology, Economy, Society, Environment, Governance, and Health. The Councils provided a unique international platform for dialogue and collaboration on strategies for shaping the future and driving advancement across vital sectors to enhance quality of life and create opportunities for generations to come.

The landmark initiative marks a significant milestone in the longstanding strategic



partnership between the UAE Government and the World Economic Forum. Over the past 16 years, the collaboration has hosted more than 900 Global Future Councils, engaging over 12,000 officials, experts, and specialists, and tackling a broad range of issues critical to humanity's present and future.





# Mohammed bin Rashid attends unveiling of Dubai's new cultural and architectural landmark, DUMA

Designed by Pritzker Prize-winner Ando, Dubai Museum of Art's distinctive silhouette draws on the sea and pearls and will be raised on a circular platform that extends over Dubai Creek



“Culture and art are the soul of a city and a lens through which its progress is seen. They reflect its vision and the depth of its humanitarian mission. The Dubai Museum of Art will be a new beacon for the city, enhancing its arts scene and further strengthening its global cultural status.”

**- His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai**

The Dubai Museum of Art (DUMA), unveiled in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, on 25th October 2025, is a visionary project to be developed by the Al-Futtaim Group on the waters of the Dubai Creek.

Designed by the world-renowned Japanese architect Tadao Ando, DUMA is set to become a major cultural and architectural landmark that will redefine the cityscape and enrich Dubai’s creative landscape.

The museum reflects Dubai’s ambition to position itself as a global capital of culture, creativity, and innovation. It embodies H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum’s vision to make Dubai a destination of choice for creatives from around the world, home to communities and industries working together to accelerate the growth of the creative economy.

By enriching Dubai’s creative landscape and strengthening its global cultural status, the museum will add to the city’s diversity and reinforce its standing on the modern art map.

Through its exhibitions, programmes, and educational initiatives, the museum will serve as a new beacon for the city’s arts scene and a platform for artists from around the world to share ideas, exchange knowledge, and celebrate creativity.

The Dubai Museum of Art features a captivating, one-of-a-kind design that blends the essence of deep-rooted local culture with modern architectural sensibilities, emphasising symbolic meaning, human-centred dimensions, dynamic purpose, and strong appeal to artists and art enthusiasts.

Inspired by the sea and the pearl—symbols of Dubai’s heritage and spirit—the museum’s curved shell encloses a circular exhibition hall that represents unity, discovery, and continuity. A central cylindrical opening allows natural light to cascade through the structure, evoking the gentle shimmer of a pearl.

Rising five storeys above the water, the Museum will feature adaptable exhibition galleries across the first and second floors, a restaurant and VIP lounge on the third floor, as well as ground and basement levels. Beyond its exhibitions, the Museum will host artist talks, panel discussions, educational programmes, and art fairs.

Purpose-built event spaces and a dedicated VIP lounge will support a curated cultural calendar that fosters learning, dialogue, and creative innovation. To deepen its educational impact, the Museum will include a library and study rooms, as well as world-class training programmes designed to nurture future generations of creative leaders.

The Dubai Museum of Art captures the spirit of Dubai—open to the vast sea and sky, in harmony



"The Dubai Museum of Art is more than an architectural landmark. It is a cultural statement that reflects Dubai's openness to creativity and affirms its role in connecting cultures and celebrating talent from around the world."

**- Omar Al Futtaim, Vice-Chairman and CEO, Al-Futtaim Group**

with its natural surroundings, and inspired by the city's deep-rooted heritage. DUMA is envisioned as a global platform for both emerging and established artists. It will offer compelling artistic and human experiences that strengthen cultural ties and open new paths for personal growth and knowledge exchange.

The Museum will showcase modern and contemporary art that reflects Dubai's spirit and diversity. It will offer artistic and human experiences that strengthen cultural ties and open new paths for personal growth and knowledge exchange, using art as a catalyst for empathy, curiosity, and social transformation.

Japanese architect Tadao Ando is one of the world's most celebrated and influential architects, known for his minimalist concrete structures that harmonise with nature through masterful use of light, shadow, and spatial balance.





## UAE strengthens international cooperation on energy transition with G20 countries

**UAE NEWS** Eng. Sharif Al Olama, Undersecretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, held a series of high-level bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G20 Energy Meetings in South Africa with several countries, including Singapore, Ireland, Germany, and Indonesia. The discussions aimed at enhancing international cooperation in energy transition, clean hydrogen, low-emission technologies, and energy efficiency.

During his meeting with the Government of Singapore, represented by the Energy Market Authority of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Al Olama discussed prospects for cooperation in peaceful nuclear energy, electricity interconnection, and liquefied natural gas (LNG). The talks also included the possibility of Singapore joining the Global Energy Efficiency Alliance (GEEA), launched by the UAE.

He also met with the Irish delegation to explore opportunities for partnership in renewable energy, clean technology, hydrogen, and its derivatives. These discussions aim to strengthen energy security and accelerate low-carbon investments.

In his meeting with Stefan Wenzel, Parliamentary

State Secretary at Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Al Olama explored ways to enhance cooperation on industrial decarbonisation, hydrogen supply chains, and clean technologies. Discussions focused on building upon existing frameworks between the two countries, including the Emirati-German Energy and Climate Partnership, the Bilateral Hydrogen Working Group, and the Joint Declaration of Intent with the Fraunhofer Society.

With Eniya Listiani Dewi, Director-General of New, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation at Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, he discussed practical cooperation opportunities in developing building energy efficiency codes, performance standards, and incentive and compliance programs.

These meetings reflect the UAE's commitment to fostering international partnerships in sustainable energy and supporting the objectives of the historic UAE Consensus and Sustainable Development Goal 7, by accelerating the global transition to clean, secure, and low-emission energy systems.

## The new XC70: Volvo's first long-range plug-in hybrid



With its extended electric range and fast charging capabilities, the new Volvo XC70 is a plug-in hybrid SUV that will do over 120 miles on electric power alone

**T**he new Volvo XC70 SUV is Volvo Cars' first long-range plug-in hybrid, offering an all-electric driving range of over 200km under the CLTC testing cycle – the longest of any Volvo plug-in hybrid to date.

Blending the latest technology, advanced safety and Scandinavian design, the new XC70 is a perfect choice for families seeking a more comfortable and relaxed lifestyle without compromising on performance or capability.

Built on Volvo Cars' new Scalable Modular Architecture (SMA) platform for long-range plug-in hybrids, the new XC70 represents an important addition to the company's product lineup. It is designed to meet growing demand for longer-range plug-in hybrids, particularly in China, where customers can now pre-order this latest model.

*Building on Volvo's tradition of solid and purposeful design, the new XC70 reflects a modern take on the brand's Scandinavian design heritage*



“The new XC70 is a very attractive choice for customers who want the benefits of electric driving but are not yet ready to go fully electric,” says Håkan Samuelsson, president and chief executive of Volvo Cars. “It is a cornerstone of our electrified product portfolio, a bridge to fully electric cars for our customers, and it will strengthen our presence in the world’s largest car market.”

The XC70 is equipped with fast charging technology, enabling it to charge from 0 to 80 per cent in just 23 minutes. In addition, the car’s bi-directional charging capacity makes it possible to use the battery as a power bank for other electric devices, such as outdoor and camping appliances.

With its long electric range and fast charging capabilities, the XC70 is affordable to drive and free of tailpipe emissions in most of your everyday commutes. The efficient combustion engine adds the flexibility needed for longer trips, allowing the driver to drive over 1,200km without the need for charging or refuelling.

### **Modern Scandinavian design**

Purposefully designed, the Volvo XC70 reflects a modern take on the company’s Scandinavian design heritage. Its strong stance and distinct features present calm confidence and rational simplicity. Sculpted lines run from front to back, while the gently tapered roof and defined shoulder give it a solid yet dynamic look.



At the front, a shield-like closed grille – echoing fully electric Volvo models – is paired with an active grille shutter that automatically adjusts to optimise aerodynamics, cabin climate and cooling. This feature helps to enhance energy efficiency and extend driving range.

At the rear, the vertical C-shaped taillights are smoothly integrated into the rear glass, creating a sleek, modern look that is both eye-catching and functional.

### **Premium comfort and versatility**

It's easy to feel at home inside the XC70. Comfortably seated and surrounded by smart storage, both the driver and passengers can enjoy the spacious cabin which features a clean, timeless Scandinavian design and high-quality materials. The premium touch is evident in every detail, from the media switch to an immersive

sound experience, which are carefully tuned to match the car's interior acoustics.

The XC70 appeals to everyone who values both comfort and performance. Its well-tuned chassis, strong body and well-balanced steering make every journey smooth and enjoyable. With large wheels, high ground clearance and all-wheel drive capability, it's also ready for more challenging road conditions.

### **Smart connectivity**

The fast and intelligent infotainment system in the XC70 comes with everything needed for a modern in-car experience, including digital services such as an AI-powered voice assistant that makes it easy to call friends and family, control the car's functions, and search for information online.

# *The new XC70 is built on Volvo Cars' new Scalable Modular Architecture (SMA) platform for long-range plug-in hybrids*



The XC70 features a crisp 12.3-inch driver display and a large free-standing 15.4-inch horizontal centre display – presenting what users need when they need it. The horizontal format allows the driver to view a large navigation map while still having space for other key functions, making multi-tasking intuitive and efficient. In addition, a 92-inch augmented reality head-up display can be opted for, providing a more immersive cockpit experience.

For added convenience, many of the car's functions – such as pre-conditioning of the cabin – can be remotely controlled using the Volvo Cars app. And with over-the-air updates, the XC70 stays up to date with the latest software, continuously improving over time.

## **Safe Space Technology**

Equipped with Safe Space Technology, Volvo XC70 is designed to help keep people safe and make them feel safe on every journey.

With advanced sensing technology, including radars, cameras and sensors, the XC70 can continuously monitor its surroundings and support the driver to help avoid or mitigate collisions when needed. It also comes with safety features to help look out for people around the car in busy urban environment, like the door opening alert, designed to help drivers and passengers avoid opening their doors into the path of cyclists

For a relaxed driving experience, the XC70 also offers intelligent driver support, such as automatic lane change assist, Park Pilot Assist and active navigation support.

Production of the new XC70 is already underway and it is now available to pre-order in China. Volvo Cars also plans to bring the car to Europe at a later stage, followed by other markets.



## Dubai Municipality launches Circle Dubai to promote zero-waste culture

The program integrates innovation, smart solutions, and extensive community engagement to foster a zero-waste culture and reinforce Dubai's global sustainability leadership

Dubai Municipality announced the launch of its pioneering sustainability initiative, Circle Dubai, under the slogan 'Reduce... Reuse... Recycle... Together we make a difference,' at the 2025 Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayors' Forum (APCS).

The initiative reflects Dubai's commitment to advancing international sustainability efforts and consolidating its position as a global model for integrated waste management. By embedding innovation, smart solutions, and community participation, Circle Dubai aims to transform waste management attitudes and systems across the emirate, marking a significant step in the city's environmental journey.

Circle Dubai reinforces the objectives of the Dubai Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2041, which targets 100% diversion of waste from landfills, with recycled waste making up at least 56% of that target. The initiative



strengthens Dubai's broader commitments to sustainability and climate action by reducing waste generation, advancing recycling practices, and embedding circular and green economy principles into everyday life.

The project outlines a comprehensive roadmap extending beyond 2041 to redefine waste management practices. Its objectives include reducing waste at source, achieving 100% source sorting across residential areas, and modernising collection and transport methodologies. Enhanced recycling and treatment processes will ensure greater efficiency in resource recovery while further reducing dependence on landfills.

The initiative also incorporates integrated community campaigns to embed a culture of zero waste. These combine interactive education tools with public engagement programmes that foster behavioural change and strengthen social responsibility across residential, commercial, industrial, and tourism sectors.

Marwan Ahmed bin Ghalita, Director-General of Dubai Municipality, said, "The launch of Circle Dubai reflects efforts promoting sustainability as a way of life, not merely a goal."

He added that the project will significantly reduce waste volumes and reliance on traditional landfills, thereby improving environmental quality and the city's overall livability. Importantly, Circle Dubai also demonstrates Dubai Municipality's practical commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those relating to responsible consumption, climate action, and sustainable cities and communities.

Adel Mohammed Al Marzouqi, CEO of the Waste and Sewerage Agency at Dubai Municipality, said, "Circle Dubai targets nine vital sectors in the city, including residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, real estate, tourism, education,

*A digital education platform will provide tailored sustainability training to various sectors across the city*

waste management, and labour employment. The initiative emphasises behavioural change, encouraging responsible practices from all segments of society and reinforcing Dubai's status as a global model for waste-free cities."

A dedicated digital education platform, one of the most advanced of its kind in the region, has been developed to promote sustainability training. The platform offers tailored educational content for each sector, supported by interactive simulations and smart assessment tools, linking knowledge with action and embedding sustainability into daily life.

Circle Dubai is underpinned by 17 strategic projects and 26 performance indicators developed in collaboration with private sector, educational, and tourism partners. These partnerships will strengthen integration across sectors, ensure measurable long-term results, and deliver clear value for residents, businesses, and the wider community.





## **New artificial reefs bolster sustainable fisheries in Sharjah, Ajman, and Ras Al Khaimah**

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has deployed artificial reefs across three emirates to enhance marine biodiversity and support sustainable fishing

As part of its efforts to protect the marine environment, promote sustainable fisheries and boost the fishing industry, the UAE's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA) has installed artificial reefs in the coastal waters of Sharjah, Ajman, and Ras Al Khaimah.

This initiative is part of MoCCA's ongoing efforts to address climate change impacts on coastal and marine environments. Artificial reefs will help boost fish stocks, support sustainable fisheries, enhance national food security, and revitalise marine biodiversity.

The artificial reefs installation programme was carried out in collaboration with the local authorities in each emirate, represented by the Sharjah Fish Resources Authority, Ajman Municipality and Planning Department, and Ras Al Khaimah Environment Protection and Development Authority (EPDA). The installation was completed based on the coordinates agreed upon with local authorities in each emirate.

Hiba Obaid Al Shehhi, Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for the Biodiversity and Marine Life Sector at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, said, "This initiative establishes an eco-friendly artificial marine reserve, designed to support marine life and enhance regional environmental sustainability.

"Through these efforts, we aim to promote the fishing industry and protect fish stocks as one of the most important resources in the country's marine environment. This step constitutes an additional support to the success of the 'Artificial Caves Programme' and rebuild fish stocks in the UAE's waters."

Launched in 2016, the Artificial Caves Programme is a strategic initiative by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. It protects the marine environment and ensures the sustainability of its natural resources and biodiversity. The programme primarily enhances national fish stocks by creating artificial habitats and nurseries, providing safe breeding and growth environments for young fish, thereby boosting marine biodiversity.

### **Sharjah Ruler inaugurates Sharjah Marine Science Research Centre**

H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah, and President of the University of Khorfakkan, inaugurated the Sharjah Marine Science Research Centre, affiliated with the university, in the city of Khorfakkan.

The centre includes 12 specialised laboratories, covering fields such as histology, wet labs, microbiology, and environmental analysis.

The Sharjah Ruler was briefed on the Advanced Microscopy Centre, the Marine Chemistry Analysis Unit, and facilities for remote sensing and geographic information systems. He examined the centre's infrastructure, including

*Sharjah inaugurates a state-of-the-art Marine Science Research Centre, equipped with 12 advanced laboratories for comprehensive marine studies*



an integrated experimental tank system, a seawater treatment plant, a marine research port, and a scientific diving training facility.

H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi reviewed a range of state-of-the-art instruments and technologies used by students, learning how they help detect marine pollution, monitor bacterial growth, and separate contaminated water from clean samples. He also observed demonstrations of measuring solid waste and marine debris, along with samples of both polluted and clean water.

## Technology leaders at ADIPEC call for bold, coordinated investment to accelerate energy progress

The event was held under the theme ‘The Technology Leap: Redefining Energy Leadership’



Artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalisation took centre stage on day 2 of ADIPEC 2025, where global energy, technology and finance leaders discussed the need for smarter investment to scale technologies and drive inclusive global progress.

Government and industry leaders at ADIPEC 2025 rallied around AI's transformative power to strengthen energy resilience and accelerate decarbonisation, recognising that energy and AI are not just shaping the future, but actively accelerating it.

As ADIPEC's second day unfolded under the theme of 'The Technology Leap: Redefining Energy Leadership', its expanded AI Zone and new Digitalisation & AI Strategic Conference programme were of particular importance, bringing together innovators and industry leaders to discuss and showcase technologies that enhance efficiency, advance sustainability, and drive system-wide transformation.

Conference discussions spotlighted the urgent need for coordinated action across sectors. Speakers emphasised the importance of leadership and inclusive strategies to navigate the energy transition. The dialogue centred on aligning innovation with investment, forging resilient partnerships, and designing systems



that can scale globally while adapting to shifting demand and market forces.

The deep impact of AI on all aspects of the energy and industry, which was explored throughout ADIPEC, was well encapsulated by Dean Watson, CEO of Enersol, in the session 'Energy leaders in the age of AI'.

He said, "AI is not a side project. It's going to be part of your core operating model. And I think, ultimately, it's probably the biggest change management initiative that we have faced in our industry. And I think it needs real deliberate planning and focus from the top down."

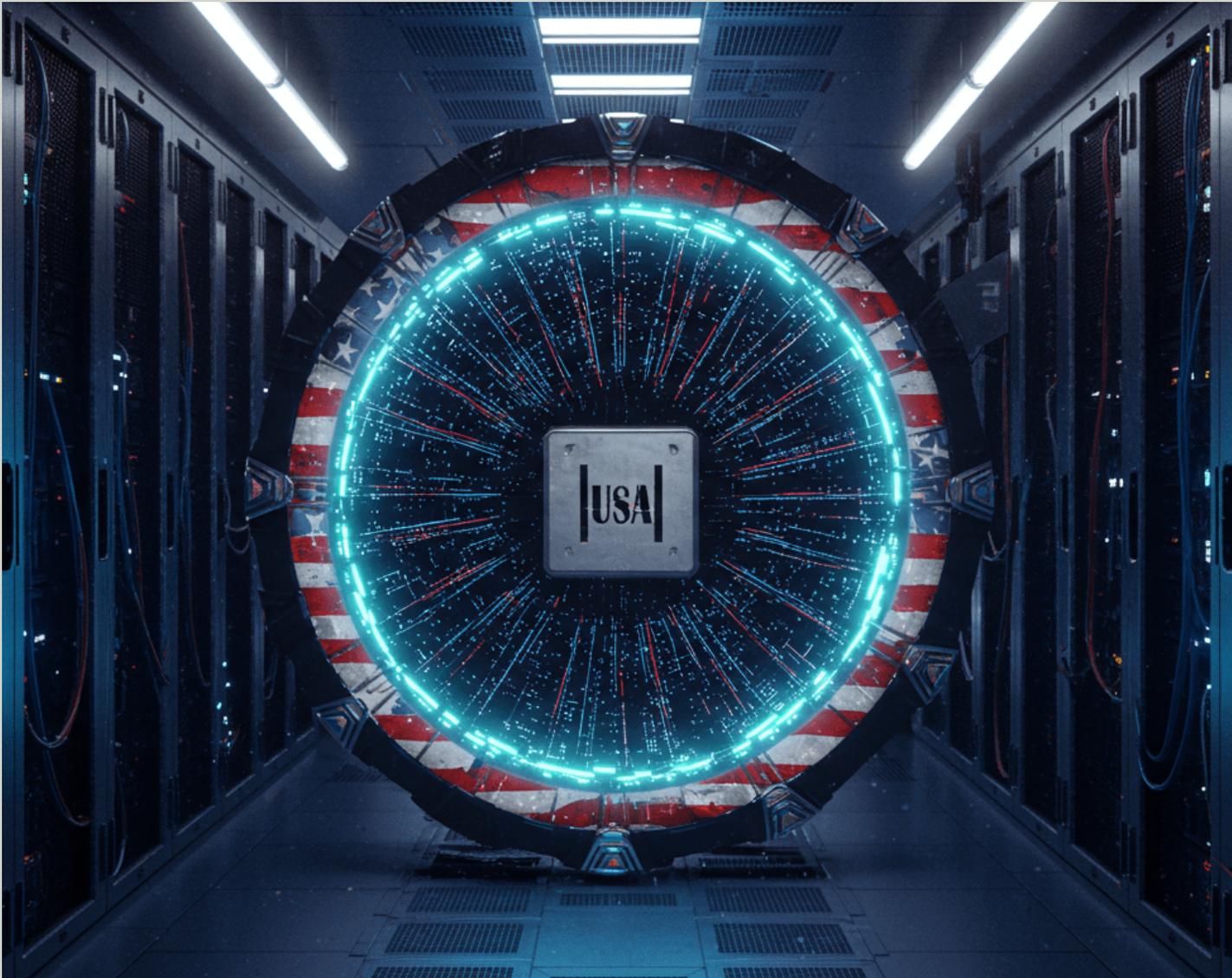
Speaking in the session titled 'Delivering more profit and a better world: AI is catalysing an energy revolution', Jack Hiday CEO, SandboxAQ, discussed how AI and data centres have been impacting the energy sector.

He said, "The AI revolution in data centres has awakened the energy industry to this phenomenon - people are open to new ideas. Just here at ADIPEC this year, I've had a very different set of

conversations than I had just last year. In just one year, we've seen many of the largest hydrocarbon companies come to us asking, 'How do we embrace AI for the physical world?'"

Discussing the benefits that AI offers the energy sector, Olivier Oullier, Founder and CEO of Inclusive Minds, said, "We can improve safety, we can improve productivity, while preserving physical and mental health. It's never been the case. We can tailor the work experience to not only who people are, but who and how they feel. Responsible AI is using the most advanced and rigorous science to turn it into tech that has positive impact.

ADIPEC's new Digitalisation & AI programme - part of the Strategic Conference - explores scalable solutions and demonstrates how applied intelligence is reshaping the global energy system. In the session titled 'The talent transformation behind Energy 5.0', experts discussed how the convergence of the fifth industrial revolution with the energy sector is impacting talent development, recruitment, and retention.



Speaking in the session, Dr. Guy Dierich, Chief Innovation Officer, Cisco, detailed how AI and digital technologies would be disrupting the job market, saying, “Right now, 92 million jobs over the next three years are going to be displaced because of technology. But at the same time, 170 million new jobs are going to be created, and they’re going to require new skills. It’s up to us to retrain those 92 million and train the other 80 million net new job seekers for the next-generation jobs.”

In collaboration with ADNOC, the AI Zone returned to ADIPEC for its second year, featuring a larger presence and a more dynamic experience. It offered an immersive environment focused on “AI for Energy” and “Energy for AI,” linking tech innovators with energy producers, investors, and

enablers driving global digital transformation.

Visitors explored interactive areas like The Intelligence Grid, Talent Hub, Values Room, and Data Visualisation, engaging with live simulations, visual data, and discussions on AI’s impact on systems, skills, and sustainability.

Among the cutting-edge smart technologies on display at the AI Zone included:

- The Mohammed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence’s robot dog called Laika, which demonstrates AI-powered mobility and reasoning, able to respond to voice commands, navigate, and describe its observations.
- G42 Project Stargate, the UAE’s hyperscale AI computing initiative designed to support large-

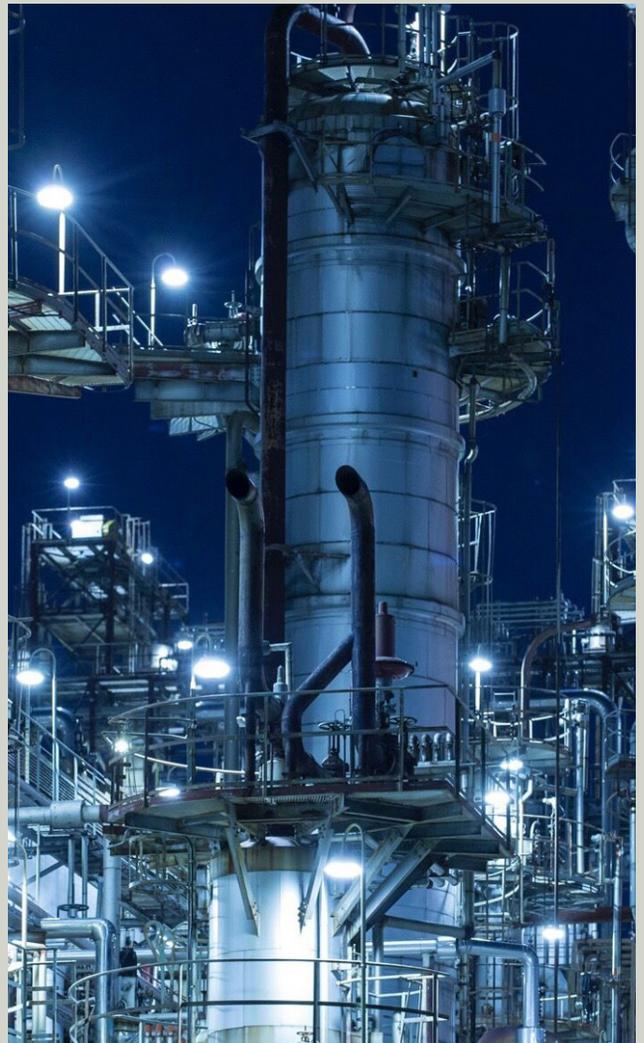
*From intelligent systems and digital twins to AI-driven operations, discussions at ADIPEC 2025 underscored how Artificial Intelligence is both shaping and driving the energy transition*



scale model training, accelerate artificial intelligence research, and drive innovation across energy, sustainability, and national digital transformation

- Accenture's 'Refinery of the Future,' simulating data flows and complex operations.

Other innovations, like oilfield monitoring drones and AI-powered platforms were showcased by companies including AREONEX, GeoCruiser, CleanConnect.AI and Senergetics, enabling the Zone to raise vital questions about powering AI infrastructure sustainably and deploying it ethically and securely.



ADIPEC 2025 concluded on 6th November, hosting discussions on prioritising hydrogen, LNG, digitalisation, and the future of energy systems. Across four days, the conference turned dialogue into delivery, catalysing partnerships and showcasing solutions that drive inclusive, sustainable progress at speed and scale.

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# Vilnius, Lithuania: The greenest city in the making

Vilnius' designation as the European Green Capital for 2025 demonstrates that economic growth and environmental stewardship can coexist

Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, was named European Green Capital 2025 for its strong commitment to sustainability and a realistic and down-to-earth approach. This prestigious title recognises the city's dedication to sustainability, climate action, and smart urban development.

The city already successfully reduced emission through various measures, such as increasing renewable energy sources and renovating heating infrastructure with the aim of becoming climate neutral by 2030. In addition, Vilnius is focusing its strategy on an efficient and solid citizen engagement, making happiness one of its top priorities.

Vilnius sees its future as a hub for sustainable innovation and is



*Vilnius is surrounded by parks and forests and more than 60% of its territory is green*



accelerating efforts to reduce pollution, protect biodiversity, and create a more livable city. Accordingly, the city aims to enhance public transportation, expand green spaces, and promote eco-friendly mobility solutions.

Vilnius is also hoping to foster more green business and investments. By expanding green public transport, reducing car dependency, and

making walking and cycling easier, the city has demonstrated that economic growth and environmental sustainability can go hand in hand.

In addition to investing in mobility solutions, the city is redeveloping old industrial zones into modern, sustainable communities through Brownfield regeneration. This allows the city to reimagine different areas of the city while keeping nearby nature untouched. Vilnius is also reducing emissions through investments in solar power, biogas, and energy-efficiency.

### **Successful Green Initiatives**

Among Vilnius' key environmental achievements is the Green Wave initiative, which has led to the planting of over 68,000 trees and shrubs. Due to the expansion of urban green spaces, over 94% of residents now live within 300 meters of a park or natural area. The city's Natura 2000 sites – sites that protect threatened species and habitats – have also increased from nine to eighteen in the last decade.

Another major achievement is the integration of green transit options. The city adopted a new Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan called SUMP 2030, which aims to reduce car use by improving route efficiency, increasing transit frequency, and making public transport more attractive. Vilnius city has already built over 100 kilometres of new bike lanes since 2016, and it is planning to transition to electric and hydrogen-powered buses by 2026. The city also promotes bike and scooter-sharing services and has plans to continue developing pedestrian-friendly zones.

In addition to green mobility solutions, Vilnius is also working to diversify its energy mix. Thanks



to a biofuel cogeneration plant, 83% of district heating has been sourced using renewable energy since 2024. The goal is to reach 100% by 2030.

### **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

Bold change doesn't come without its share of challenges. Air pollution from residential heating has posed a major challenge to Vilnius, as many old homes still rely on solid fuels like firewood for heating. Construction and industrial pollution also impact air quality around the city.

### **Attracting Eco-Conscious Travelers**

In addition to green opportunities for its residents, Vilnius is making eco-conscious travel more convenient than ever. According to a World Travel & Tourism Council study, 75% of travelers want to prioritise environmentally responsible

trips in 2025. As the European Green Capital for 2025, Vilnius provides unique, eco-friendly travel options for visitors. Tourists from nearby cities can easily reach Vilnius by train, with direct connections from Warsaw, Riga, and Tallinn. These options reduce the need for carbon-intensive air travel.

Sustainability extends to dining, where many cafes and restaurants serve organic, locally sourced meals. The city is home to four Michelin-star restaurants, and establishments like Pas Mus source ingredients directly from home gardens and nearby forests.

Eco-conscious accommodations are also on the rise. Many hotels and hostels are implementing energy efficiency and waste reduction strategies, using locally sourced materials, and offering green cleaning options. A central hostel even

# *The Green City Action Plan (GCAP) of Vilnius supports the city in its goal to become an inclusive and resilient climate-neutral city*



caters to those traveling with campers, making sustainable and budget-friendly lodging accessible for all.

In terms of recreation, over 61% of the city is covered in green spaces with a 100km network of scenic walking trails, it is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. Visitors can also explore the nearby Žaliejai Ežerai and Balžio Lakes and kayak on the Neris River.

## **Committed to a Sustainable Future**

Beyond 2025, Vilnius has even more ambitious goals. It is working towards climate neutrality by 2030 through the NetZeroCities initiative and by 2050, the city plans full fossil fuel elimination,

expanded urban biodiversity programs, and green infrastructure integration into all development projects. To measure the success of its Green Capital initiatives, Vilnius is closely monitoring air quality, biodiversity indices, and the expansion of urban green spaces. Public engagement is also a key metric for the city, particularly through tools like interactive reporting maps to track green space improvements.



## **Food Waste Breakthrough launched to help cities halve food waste, cut methane emissions and reduce hunger**

**Every year, over one billion tonnes of food are wasted, driving up to 10% of global emissions**

**T**he UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and partners launched a new initiative to halve food waste by 2030 and cut up to seven per cent from methane emissions as part of efforts to slow climate change.

Launched at COP30 in Belém, the Food Waste Breakthrough is a 2030 Climate Solution under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, and unites governments, cities, and civil society to act on an issue that strikes at the heart of global hunger and climate change.

The world wastes over one billion tonnes of food every year, contributing up to 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. It accounts for up to 14 per cent of methane emissions – a short-lived climate pollutant that is 84 times more potent at warming the atmosphere than carbon dioxide over 20 years.

Contributing to a financial loss of USD1 trillion (USD) per year, reducing food waste offers one of the most cost-effective, scalable, and high-impact solutions to tackle climate and hunger–

especially in cities.

“The world wastes an unforgiveable amount of food each year, in every country, rich and poor,” said Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director. “Reducing this food waste is key to addressing hunger and cutting methane emissions from landfills - decisive action to lower global temperatures, save money, and tackle food insecurity at the same time.”

“If left unchecked, food waste could double its methane impact by 2050, threatening our climate and food security. But the solution is in our hands. By uniting governments, cities, businesses, and communities globally to halve food waste by 2030 and keep food out of landfills, we can cut methane unlocking bold climate action and propelling humanity toward a future where food shortage and waste are history,” stated Dan Ioschpe, COP30 Climate High-Level Champion.

### **Commitments in place**

The Food Waste Breakthrough is built on three pillars: Capacity Building & Advocacy, Data & Policy, and Finance & Implementation.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, UNEP will launch a USD3 million, four-year global project to implement the targets of the Food Waste Breakthrough. The project will accelerate food waste prevention and methane mitigation by adapting and scaling proven solutions at the national and sub-national level in developing countries and promoting global collaboration on this topic.

“Addressing food waste through prevention and behavioral change holds promise not only for cost-effective climate action, but also towards supporting sustainable consumption,” said Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility. “We look forward to partnering with countries and cities to scale up such investments as part of our commitment to

*The initiative also targets up to 7% reduction in methane emissions*



bring about transformational change through integrated solutions.”

UNEP is also working with financial institutions and foundations to secure a USD5 million challenge, to fund 20-25 community innovations led by cities or youth across Latin America & the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

# WHO and Brazil urge swift action on Belém Health Action Plan at COP30

The Belém Health Action Plan, born from a collaboration between the Brazilian government and the World Health Organization, is centred around three core pillars: adaptation, equity, and climate justice

*Allocating just 7% of adaptation finance to health would safeguard billions of people and keep essential services operating during climate shocks*

Climate change is already driving a global health emergency, with over 540,000 people dying from extreme heat each year and 1 in 12 hospitals worldwide at risk of climate-related shutdowns, warns a new special report, released jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Government of Brazil (COP30 Presidency) and the Brazilian Ministry of Health.

The *COP30 Special report on health and climate change: delivering the Belém Health Action Plan*, notes that rising temperatures and collapsing health systems are claiming more lives and calls for immediate and coordinated action to protect health in a rapidly warming world. It follows the launch of the Belém Health Action Plan, a flagship initiative of Brazil's COP 30 Presidency, unveiled on the dedicated Health Day of COP30 - 13 November 2025.

"The climate crisis is a health crisis - not in the distant future, but here and now," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "This special report provides evidence on the impact of climate change on individuals and health systems, and real-world examples of what countries can do - and are doing - to protect health and strengthen health systems."

With global temperatures now exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, the world is already experiencing mounting health impacts. The report finds that 3.3 to 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly vulnerable to climate change, and

hospitals are facing 41% higher risk of damage from extreme weather-related impact compared to 1990. This underscores the urgent need to strengthen and adapt health systems to protect communities from climate-related shocks.

Without rapid decarbonization, the number of health facilities at risk could double by mid-century, which stresses the critical importance of implementing adaptation measures to safeguard health infrastructure. The health sector itself contributes around 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions and needs rapid transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient systems.

The report identifies persistent gaps that require urgent attention. Only 54% of national health adaptation plans assess risks to health facilities, and fewer than 30% of health adaptation studies consider income, 20% consider gender, and less than 1% include people with disabilities.

There is progress being made; between 2015 and 2023, the number of countries with national Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) doubled to 101, now covering about two-thirds of the global population. However, only 46% of Least Developed Countries and 39% of Small Island Developing States have effective systems in place.

The report's central message is clear: there is now more than enough evidence to scale up



action, today. Cost-effective, high-impact, and no-regret interventions exist for each component of the Belém Health Action Plan. But adaptation strategies could ultimately fail unless they address the root causes of health inequity – both within health systems and across society.

The report calls on governments to:

- **Integrate health objectives** into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs);
- Harness the financial savings from decarbonization to **fund health adaptation** and workforce capacity;
- **Invest in resilient infrastructure**, prioritizing health facilities and essential services; and
- **Empower communities** and local knowledge systems to shape responses that reflect lived realities.

The Government of Brazil also released a companion report, Social participation, climate and health: a special report to support implementation of the Belém Health Action Plan, which focuses on social participation, governance,

and community engagement as a critical dimension of the Belém Health Action Plan. The report highlights that climate change poses profound risks to human health, particularly for vulnerable and historically marginalized populations, and that effective adaptation requires the active involvement of communities in designing, implementing, and monitoring health policies.

Together, the two reports provide complementary pathways for translating the Plan's objectives into practice - one focused on evidence and implementation, the other on inclusive participation and leadership across societies.

### **The Belém Health Action Plan**

The Belém Health Action Plan, a flagship outcome of Brazil's COP 30 Presidency, is structured around two cross cutting principles and concepts: health equity and 'climate justice' and leadership and governance on climate and health with social participation.

The Plan also outlines three lines of action for

*Heat-related deaths have surged 23% since the 1990s, "now exceeding half a million deaths per year"*



climate-resilient health systems:

- **Surveillance and monitoring**, focused on strengthening integrated and climate-informed health surveillance
- **Evidence-based policies, strategies and capacity-building**, aimed at enhancing the ability of national and local systems to implement effective, equity-driven solutions
- **Innovation, production, and digital health**, which promotes research, development, and access to technologies that meet the health needs of diverse populations.

The report was prepared under the guidance of an Expert Advisory Group of global public health leaders, chaired by the NUS Centre for Sustainable Medicine and with the leadership of the WHO and the Brazilian Ministry of Health. Drawing on more than 70 case studies from around the world, the COP30 special report identifies practical interventions already delivering results - from

early warning systems and green hospital design to climate-informed health planning and sustainable financing.

### **Leaders of 40 countries endorse rainforest conservation fund**

Ahead of the COP30 UN Climate Conference, world leaders participating in a climate summit in Brazil agreed to establish a fund aimed at conserving tropical forests.

The initiative, called the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, or TFFF, was proposed by the Brazilian government. More than 50 countries and regions, including Japan, expressed support. The fund aims to raise a total of USD125 billion from both the public and private sectors.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the initiative would be significant for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

# COP30: The business case for investing in climate adaptation is compelling

Small-scale farmers produce one third of the world's food, yet, they receive less than one per cent of total climate finance



**A**t COP30, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) showcased new evidence that investing in small-scale farmers to help them adapt and thrive in a changing climate yields strong economic and social returns. The organization urged governments and partners to scale and speed up adaptation investment in rural communities who are the backbone of national and global food supplies and rural ecosystems.

IFAD launched its new publication, *Adaptation Finance: Building the Investment Case*, which highlights how climate adaptation can be an engine of economic opportunities. The report

also shows how to make adaptation projects “bankable” by integrating financial and social impact metrics to quantify real returns and link development results with investment performance.

The publication shows how a project in Bangladesh generated a return of 35 per cent per year on the investment made and led to an 11 per cent income increase for 5 million people thanks to climate resilient markets and roads to access them.

“Investments in climate adaptation are not just about protecting the livelihoods of the world’s poorest. They are a strategic and economic opportunity. By preserving the capacity of



nations to produce food, create jobs and sustain growth, these investments strengthen economic and social stability as well,” said Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD.

Every dollar invested in adaptation can return over USD10 in benefits. Many of these returns come from job creation, or higher incomes, and social and environmental dividends such as improved health or better biodiversity.

The IFAD project in Bangladesh shows how climate-resilient infrastructure and markets cut farmers’ transport costs by 60%, boosted trade by 75%, and reduced post-harvest losses by 30%. It also created thousands of jobs through community-based works.

Other evidence shows that investing in deep rural areas can be transformational, with several projects leading to an income gain of 50% for farmers, according to the latest IFAD Impact

assessment. Among the projects assessed, small-scale food producers that received investment from 2022-2024 saw their average income grow by 34%; their production grow by 35%; and their access to markets increase by 34%.

Globally, a USD 1.8 trillion investment in early warningsystems, climate-resilient infrastructure, improved dryland agriculture, global mangrove protection and resilient water resources could generate USD 7.1 trillion in avoided costs and social and environmental benefits.

Currently over 60 million people are engaged in nature-based solutions activities, i.e. solutions inspired and supported by nature such as reforestation, coastal ecosystems restoration, or sustainable land management.

Such activities can generate up to 32 million new jobs by 2030.

# Word Scramble

DORTGUH  
 IGONFODL  
 YERCCEL  
 DSGEARN  
 SAERFMR

NISTUSA

MICATEL

PTRETOC

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ANSWERS: 1) I. RECYCLE 2) GARDENS 3) FLOODING 4) DROUGHT 5) FARMERS 6) CLIMATE 7) SUSTAIN

# Word Search

E	E	L	B	A	N	I	A	T	S	U	S	R	M
G	R	E	E	N	E	R	Y	V	F	L	V	N	D
F	A	B	F	L	F	R	E	D	U	C	E	N	L
M	S	I	N	A	G	E	V	A	T	P	P	L	R
L	L	M	E	S	E	A	A	T	O	L	T	G	V
O	N	A	A	O	E	L	G	A	A	A	R	A	L
E	N	R	U	P	B	T	E	L	L	N	G	R	F
E	R	W	A	S	T	E	E	F	T	E	R	A	M
E	A	S	S	I	A	N	P	R	A	T	E	T	E
C	R	E	P	D	D	A	I	N	E	U	D	G	O
L	O	I	R	N	F	O	R	E	S	T	N	S	I
L	L	D	P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	R	A	A
E	F	R	L	N	S	R	O	L	R	F	E	E	T
R	E	I	R	V	I	L	A	N	D	F	I	L	L

- LANDFILL
- DISPOSAL
- PRESERVE
- GREENERY
- REDUCE
- VEGANISM
- FAUNA
- WASTE
- FOREST
- PLANET
- FLORA
- SUSTAINABLE

# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

3. Rainy season
5. A circle dividing a sphere or other surface into two usually equal and symmetrical parts
6. Imparting heat
8. The somatic sensation of cold or heat

## Down

1. Agriculture considered as an occupation or way of life
2. Become different
4. Disposing of garbage
7. A substance that can be consumed to produce energy

# ★ WORD OF THE DAY:

## SEA LEVEL RISE

Sea level rise is an increase in the level of the world's oceans due to the effects of global warming. Burning fossil fuels is one of the causes of global warming because it releases carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gasses into the atmosphere. The oceans then absorb the majority of this heat. As water becomes warmer, it expands. This results in ocean levels rising worldwide.

Sea level rise poses a serious threat to coastal life around the world. Consequences include increased intensity of storm surges, flooding, and damage to coastal areas. In many cases, this is where large population centers are located, in addition to fragile wildlife habitats.

Therefore, people may become displaced and will need to seek safer homes. Even life farther inland is threatened because rising seas can contaminate soil and groundwater with salt. Predicting how high the sea levels will rise is difficult. However, it is an issue that must be carefully monitored so coastal areas can be prepared for the consequences.

In 2023, global average sea level set a new record high—101.4 mm (3.99 inches) above 1993 levels. The rate of global sea level rise is accelerating: it has more than doubled from 0.06 inches (1.4 millimeters) per year throughout most of the twentieth century to 0.14 inches (3.6 millimeters) per year from 2006–2015.

Sea level is measured by two main methods: tide gauges and satellite altimeters. Tide gauge stations from around the world have measured the daily high and low tides for more than a century, using a variety of manual and automatic sensors. Using data from scores of stations around the world, scientists can calculate a global average and adjust it for seasonal differences.

Since the early 1990s, sea level has been



measured from space using radar altimeters, which determine the height of the sea surface by measuring the return speed and intensity of a radar pulse directed at the ocean. The higher the sea level, the faster and stronger the return signal is.



## WORLD SOIL DAY DEC 05

Our planet's survival depends on the precious link with soil. Over 95 percent of our food comes from soils. Besides, they supply 15 of the 18 naturally occurring chemical elements essential to plants.

However, in the face of climate change and human activity, our soils are being degraded. Erosion disrupts the natural balance, reducing water infiltration and availability for all forms of life, and decreasing the level of vitamins and nutrients in food.

Did you know?

- 95% of our food comes from soils.
- 33% of soils are degraded.

- It can take up to 1 000 years to produce just 2-3 cm of soil.
- Soils supply 15 of the 18 naturally occurring chemical elements essential to plants.
- There are more living organisms in a tablespoon of soil than people on Earth.
- 2 billion people worldwide suffer from lack of micronutrients, known as hidden hunger.
- Up to 58% more food could be produced through sustainable soil management.
- Soil is home to nearly 59% of Earth's species.



## DEC 11 INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY

Mountains are home to 15% of the world's population and host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. They provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity, helping to sustain agriculture and supply clean energy and medicines.

Unfortunately, mountains are under threat from climate change, overexploitation and contamination, increasing the risks for the people and the planet.

As the global climate continues to warm, mountain glaciers melt affecting freshwater supplies downstream, and mountain people — some of the world's poorest — face even greater struggles to survive.

The clearing of forest for farming or infrastructure can cause soil erosion and habitat loss. Erosion and pollution harm the quality of water and the productivity of soil. In fact, over 311 million rural mountain people in developing countries live in areas exposed to progressive land degradation, 178 million of whom are considered vulnerable to food insecurity.

The 2025 theme "Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and beyond" highlights the importance of glacier preservation for agriculture and water security, as these are the lifelines for ecosystems and support the livelihoods of vulnerable mountain communities.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

#### Things to Do...

- Reuse both sides of a sheet of paper
- Carry a water bottle
- Cycle around!
- Use public transport
- Do not waste food

COLOUR ME!





## New partnership to cultivate 500,000 coral reefs around Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant

UAE NEWS

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company have partnered to implement a pioneering project aimed at cultivating 500,000 coral reefs around the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant in the Al Dhafra Region.

The agreement was signed during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi, in support of the initiative of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in the Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), to cultivate four million coral colonies by 2030.

The project aims to establish coral nurseries and cultivate coral species capable of withstanding high temperatures, in addition to implementing integrated environmental monitoring programmes and cultivating 500,000 coral colonies over the next three years. This will contribute to enhancing marine biodiversity and preserving marine ecosystems in Abu Dhabi.

Under the agreement, EAD will oversee the project's implementation phases while the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company will provide the necessary funding and resources.

EAD is a leading regional agency in the field of coral reef restoration, having successfully cultured more than 1.45 million coral colonies as part of the Gulf's largest coral reef rehabilitation project, launched in 2021 by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The project aims to cultivate four million coral colonies by 2030 through the development of modern coral nursery technologies and the use of innovative methods to enhance corals' ability to withstand climate change and rising temperatures.

The project has achieved great success, recording a 95 percent survival rate of cultured coral after the summer season, and a 50 percent increase in fish biomass.





## ENEC, Presight co-develop the ENECIQ AI platform to boost efficiency, knowledge sharing

UAE NEWS

The Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and Presight have co-developed ENECIQ, an independent agentic AI platform designed to drive faster insights, decision-making, and knowledge sharing at ENEC.

ENECIQ marks a significant step in ENEC's ongoing digital transformation journey, reflecting the organisation's commitment to leveraging advanced technologies to enhance efficiencies across its corporate and support functions. This new platform is designed to securely integrate AI across ENEC's internal corporate systems to assist employees at all levels, from engineers and analysts to administrative teams, by providing intelligent, context-aware support.

The platform will draw on ENEC-specific knowledge bases to enable employees to generate tailored insights, automate time-intensive tasks, and ensure faster, data-driven outcomes. Applications include summarising technical reports from ENEC's document management system, extracting insights from project KPIs and risk assessments, and offering staff rapid access to information and procedures.

By integrating AI into everyday workflows, ENECIQ will enable staff to save more time for innovation and problem-solving.

ENECIQ is being developed within ENEC to secure cloud environment, and remains entirely separate from its nuclear reactor operations systems, ensuring compliance with the highest local and international standards of data governance and security.

By embedding AI directly into its operations, ENEC is fostering greater knowledge sharing and automation. ENECIQ also creates a platform for ongoing innovation, empowering employees to explore new AI-driven applications across the organisation. This initiative aligns with the UAE's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

ENEC plays a crucial role in powering the UAE's future with safe, reliable, and sustainable nuclear energy. Nuclear power's stable, low-carbon electricity generation is key to supporting AI infrastructure and data centres critical to the nation's digital economy.

## Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure launches integrated digital projects at GITEX Global

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure announced the launch of a series of integrated digital projects and innovative technology initiatives during its participation in GITEX Global 2025 in Dubai, within the UAE Government Pavilion. These projects reflect the national direction toward comprehensive digital transformation and aim to enhance integration across the sectors of energy, infrastructure, transport, housing, and services.

The Ministry also inaugurated the Global Energy Efficiency Alliance (GEEA) platform, one of the most prominent international initiatives aimed at strengthening collaboration among governments, institutions, and innovative companies in the fields of energy efficiency and sustainability. The platform leverages intelligent analytics to identify high-impact, pioneering projects that contribute to reducing emissions and improving resource efficiency, reinforcing the UAE's position as a global hub for leading the transition toward a low-carbon economy.

The Ministry also unveiled the National Green Certificates Programme (NGCP) platform, a national system for evaluating and certifying sustainable buildings using artificial intelligence technologies to measure energy and water efficiency and the quality of urban design.

The program contributes to accelerating the adoption of green technologies and establishing national performance standards that enhance the UAE's competitiveness in sustainable development and support its goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.



As part of its efforts to enhance customer experience, the Ministry announced the launch of the Hybrid Customer Happiness Center model, which provides government services through a system that combines in-person attendance with virtual platforms via video communication technologies. The model is distinguished by its flexibility and inclusiveness, helps reduce emissions caused by transportation, and applies the five- and seven-star Customer Happiness Centre excellence standards, enhancing both the quality and sustainability of services.

During the event, the Ministry highlighted the Integrated Digital Government Services Centre in Fujairah, launched as a pioneering model for delivering government services in a comprehensive digital environment powered by artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and the metaverse. The center offers over 150 digital services to citizens and residents, serving more than 20,000 users annually, embodying the transformation toward a paperless and queue-free government.



## COP30: What is new?

**Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif**  
Chief Technical Advisor  
Zayed International Foundation  
for the Environment

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GREEN FLASH

The 30th Climate Conference of Parties (COP30) held in Brazil marked a significant milestone in global climate negotiations. As the world faces escalating climate challenges, COP30 aimed to accelerate the implementation of agreed plans.

The conference introduced new mechanisms to enhance accountability and transparency and called on member countries to provide more detailed plans of how they will achieve their emissions reduction targets, and sought ways to foster trust and cooperation among nations to facilitate progress on emission reductions. The necessity of integrating nature-based solutions into climate strategies has been highlighted, but we need to specify mechanisms of implementation.

As usual, previous pledges were reiterated with discussions on increasing the funding to better support adaptation and mitigation strategies in the Global South.

Youth involvement and representation were prioritised at COP30, with activists and young leaders emphasizing the need for immediate and bold climate action.

Key challenges remained unresolved at the conference. The conference concluded with a commitment to reconvene in the coming months to continue discussions on several contentious issues, maintaining momentum ahead of COP31.

I do not see any substantial progress in the climate change issue. The annual COP outcome is always about plans and pledges, which are re-discussed in the next COP.

So far, there have been 82 environmental treaties, and after 32 years of chasing sustainable solutions for the climate change challenges, the outcome is disappointing. We should be looking for another path alongside the annual COP path, which is dependent on the political will and interest of industries. We need to add a path that is directly dependent on individuals and communities at the local level.

If we invest our time and funding into raising environmental awareness and human consciousness, I believe that we can achieve much better results. Such an initiative, known as the humanware, focuses on human beings, who are seen as both beneficiaries and agents of change as well. The UN needs to direct more funding and programs towards education, awareness raising, and training.

Education is a long-term tool to ensure that coming generations are not going to follow the same production and consumption patterns, while training and awareness raising can bring the required change among the current generation.

Let us work together to raise this important issue at the UN meetings.

# Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a  
green home



THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD  
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment