

THE SUSTAINABILITY SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

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The UAE signed the Paris Accord on 22nd April 2016, enhancing the national commitment towards low-carbon development and sustainability stewardship.

Working towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, Dubai Carbon has developed a simple tool to help stakeholders assess their sustainability indicators. The tool is aligned with national plans and strategies, such as the UAE Vision 2021, Dubai Plan 2021 and the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030, and is designed to incorporate baselines and identify areas relevant to entities based in the UAE.

Awareness is fundamental in reaching sustainability targets and this data-centric approach aims to help organisations benchmark where they stand in relation to global best practices.

The tool is cross-sectorial and specifically focuses on measuring risk and exposure towards socio-environmental impacts. Its use allows organisations not only to benchmark their resource efficiency in a global sense but also amongst industries and peers so they can understand their current standing and efforts in the realms of sustainability and green economy.

In using the tool, organisations can assess their operations within the different categories of green economy, which is then divided into sub-categories for supplementary assessment. The categories include issues such as governance, energy, natural resources, innovation, infrastructure, and human capital, while the sub-categories include renewable energy, clean fuel, green technologies, youth development, green procurement, and similar vital initiatives.

The tool data uses quantitative analysis and looks at sustainability from three pillars: environmental, economic and social. It currently covers 19 Aspects and 22 Indicators. With the principle that all aspects and indicators are equally important, the weighting is distributed equally among the three pillars of sustainability considered in the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G4 framework, although certain aspects have few indicators that are commonly present within organisations, hence more weight is given to these. In the interests of fairness and to reward awareness, the tool gives the entities credit for recognising the indicator, even if no action has yet been implemented.

The Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool generates visual representations of the entity's sustainability performance, which allows users to have a clearer idea of their sustainability performance and can aid in goal-setting.

It is set to become a key tool, as it enables businesses to assess the real impacts of their activities on the environment and socio-economic sectors. This represents a valuable step in achieving the sustainability goals set by the UAE.

To ensure the Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool is accessible, it is available at no cost on Dubai Carbon's website, www.dcce.ae



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