

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



القمة العالمية للاقتصاد الأخضر
WORLD GREEN ECONOMY SUMMIT

21 - 22 OCTOBER 2026

DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE

CONCEPT NOTE

FROM SUCCESS TO SCALE:
SHOWCASING THE GREEN ECONOMY

ORGANISED BY



WORLD GREEN ECONOMY
ORGANIZATION

هيئة كهرباء ومياه دبي
Dubai Electricity & Water Authority



المجلس الأعلى للطاقة
Supreme Council of Energy



SUMMIT OVERVIEW

FROM SUCCESS TO SCALE: SHOWCASING THE GREEN ECONOMY

The global green economy has reached a defining moment. Global energy transition investment reached a record \$2.3 trillion in 2025, up from \$1.8 trillion just two years earlier. Operational renewable capacity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) now stands at 43.7 gigawatts (GW), with a project pipeline exceeding 200 GW already in development. Additionally, at COP28, 125 nations committed to tripling global renewable capacity by 2030, a target the MENA region alone is on track to meet. What began as ambitious targets and long-term commitments has evolved into tangible results: proven technologies deployed at scale, innovative green business models generating measurable returns and communities building resilience through practical solutions.

Success stories around the world demonstrate what is possible when vision is translated into action. As governments, businesses and civil society continue to invest in clean energy, circular systems and climate-smart infrastructure, the opportunity now lies in replicating and scaling what already works. On 1 January 2026, the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism entered full force, making the cost of inaction concrete for industries across MENA and beyond. Updated national climate plans still leave a gap of more than 20 gigatonnes in meeting the 1.5°C target, not because solutions don't exist, but because the solutions that work have yet to be replicated at the speed and scale the moment demands. WGES 2026 is the response to that gap. Not another forum to debate the need for action, but a showcase of the models, the capital and the leaders already closing it.

The MENA region stands at the forefront of this momentum. Despite being the world's most water-scarce region and relying on food imports for more than 50% of its needs, the region has transformed its unique challenges into catalysts for innovation. With vast renewable energy potential, some of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds and a rapidly expanding ecosystem of green investment, the region is not only advancing its own energy transition but also offering scalable models for the world.

The UAE offers a clear example of this in practice, with its renewable energy landscape anchored by landmark developments such as Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, alongside major projects like Noor Abu Dhabi and Al Dhafra, storage initiatives such as the Hatta hydroelectric plant, and developments like Masdar City, which is fully powered by renewable energy. This is reinforced by growing investment in green hydrogen to decarbonise global industries. Renewable-powered desalination and Sharjah's waste-to-energy projects reflect a more integrated approach, tackling energy, water and waste while converting persistent challenges into scalable solutions.

In line with this global movement, the UAE continues to reinforce its position as a global hub and key driver of the green transition. Within the UAE, Dubai stands as an exemplary case of green transition success. Dubai has a clear strategy and road map to transform into a centre of excellence in essential new technologies to achieve net-zero carbon emissions

in line with the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy, which aim to ensure 100% of the emirate's total power production capacity comes from clean energy sources by 2050.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park is the world's largest single-site solar park, with capacity already at 3,860 megawatts (MW) and set to exceed 8,000 MW by 2030. The solar park will reduce 8.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year from 2030. Dubai has established an AED 100 billion Green Fund to ensure the necessary funding tools for short and long-term investments, and the UAE has committed \$54 billion to renewable investment by 2030. Clean energy is on track, demonstrating that sustainability is a growth strategy, not a cost.

To advance these efforts, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) are organising the 12th World Green

Economy Summit (WGES) on 21 and 22 October 2026 at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Held under the theme 'From Success to Scale: Showcasing the Green Economy', WGES 2026 reflects a pivotal shift in the global sustainability dialogue. Successful models already exist and the priority now is replication and implementation at scale. The summit moves the conversation beyond the need for climate action towards demonstrating how the transition is already taking place and how it can be expanded more rapidly and effectively. Bringing together experts from a wide range of industries, countries, sectors and institutions, WGES will showcase the most effective and innovative approaches to advancing the green economy.

The summit will convene infrastructure developers, business leaders, resilience planners and capital providers to present proven solutions and scalable models. WGES 2026 will focus on priority areas under four main thematic pillars and three cross-cutting themes.

PILLARS

MAIN THEMATIC PILLARS



Energy Technology
& Infrastructure



Business Strategy
& Transition



Water & Food
Security



Finance

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



Artificial
Intelligence



Governance &
Regulation



System Enablers
(Supply Chains &
Circular Economy)

MAIN THEMATIC PILLARS

1. Energy Technology & Infrastructure

Energy infrastructure is the enabling foundation for economic transformation. As global energy demand surges, driven by electrification, industrial growth and the rapid expansion of AI-driven data centres, innovative solutions are required to meet sustainability goals while ensuring grid reliability and resilience. This pillar explores how clean power is being deployed rapidly and at scale, how energy storage is strengthening the reliability of renewable energy systems and how emerging technologies – from green hydrogen to nuclear energy – are contributing to the diversified energy mix required for a low-carbon future.

2. Business Strategy & Transition

The green economy has surpassed USD 5 trillion in annual value and is growing at twice the rate of conventional industries. Yet many organisations continue to treat sustainability as a compliance requirement or cost centre rather than a strategic growth driver. This pillar examines how leading organisations are embedding green growth into their core strategies by capturing valuation premiums, redesigning business models around circular principles, addressing the green skills gap and navigating an evolving landscape of trade policies and carbon regulation. The focus is the factors that distinguish organisations leading the transition from those still adapting to it.

3. Water & Food Security

Water and food security are not merely environmental concerns; they are fundamental economic and societal imperatives. Climate change is increasing pressure on both resources at a time when demand continues to rise. This pillar highlights how technology and infrastructure are transforming vulnerabilities into strategic capabilities, from decarbonising water production and strengthening the water-energy nexus to deploying precision agriculture and climate-adapted food systems. It also explores how climate resilience can be positioned as a long-term investment that supports economic stability, food security and sustainable growth.

4. Finance

Finance is where climate ambition either advances or stalls. The CPI estimates that at least \$6.3 trillion in annual investment will be needed from now until 2030 to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Today, investment stands at around \$2.3 trillion. Despite the availability of capital, a persistent bankability gap continues to prevent many climate projects from progressing from concept to implementation. This pillar explores how that gap can be bridged through blended finance structures that reduce investment risk, as well as green bonds and innovative financing instruments that channel capital effectively and real-world case studies that demonstrate the long-term value of climate investments. The focus is on how public and private sector financing can work together to fund the green transition at scale.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Three transformative forces are reshaping all four pillars. These themes cut across every area of the summit, creating both challenges and opportunities. Addressing them effectively requires integrated and collaborative approaches.

1. Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) is both one of the green economy's most powerful accelerators and one of its largest and rapidly evolving challenges. AI enables smarter energy management, predictive analytics for environmental risk mitigation, improved emissions monitoring and enhanced agricultural productivity. At the same time, AI-driven data centres are becoming major consumers of energy and water, with demand projected to increase significantly by 2030. WGES 2026 will define the conditions under which AI becomes net positive for the green economy, from establishing energy efficiency standards for data centres, to deploying AI-driven grid optimisation at scale.

2. Governance

Effective governance is the critical link between ambition and implementation. Discussions throughout the summit will examine how policy and regulation influence decision-making in key markets, the expansion of global carbon markets and their implications for trade and industry, and the evolving role of international climate agreements in advancing the green economy.

The implementation of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) from 2026 adds further urgency, particularly for industries such as aluminium, steel, cement and petrochemicals, which face increasing pressure to accelerate decarbonisation investments to maintain market competitiveness.

3. System Enablers: Supply Chains & Circular Economy

The green transition depends on the transformation of systems that underpin economic activity. Supply chain resilience and circular economy models are accelerating across sectors, from energy infrastructure and manufacturing to food systems and water management. The global circular economy market was valued at \$517.79 billion in 2025 and is projected to reach \$888 billion by 2030, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 11.3%. Recycled materials also generate 80% lower emissions compared to primary extraction. WGES 2026 will examine how these system-level transformations support scalable, resilient and sustainable growth across the global economy.

The World Green Economy Summit annually gathers more than 3,300 attendees representing over 30 countries, to discuss and learn from more than 80 international speakers, including ministers, CEOs and innovators, as well as over 300 media representatives from global and regional outlets.

Join leaders shaping the next chapter of the green economy on October 21 and 22 in the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Register at

www.wges.ae

Media inquiries at

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General inquiries at

info@wges.ae



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