

# The UAE: A Leader and Partner for Climate Action

In a region with extreme heat and scarce natural water sources, the UAE is taking **aggressive action** to meet the global climate challenge and believes **low-carbon investments will support economic growth and job creation**. The first Middle Eastern nation to sign the Paris Agreement and home to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the UAE is committed to **global partnership** and domestic policy for a low-carbon future. The UAE has brought the cost of solar power below that of even natural gas, enabling a rapid transition to renewable energy, and operates one of the world's largest carbon capture systems, to reduce the carbon impact of heavy industry and energy exports. The UAE has also committed to the region's first economy-wide, absolute emissions reduction target – 23.5 percent by 2030.

**Cooperation with the United States is also central to the UAE's climate plan.** At the White House Leaders Summit on Climate in April 2021, the UAE joined with the US to launch the **Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate** initiative. As a significant global investor in sustainable energy, the UAE is building solar and wind projects across the US, collaborating with the US to establish "Mission Innovation," a partnership to double clean energy R&D within 5 years, and working together with the US on implementation of the \$50 million UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund, which is building solar power plants in 16 countries.

## The UAE's Climate Leadership



UAE-US cooperation is driving climate action. On a visit to Masdar City in Abu Dhabi in 2016, then US Vice President Joe Biden discussed renewable energy solutions with the UAE's current Special Envoy for Climate HE Dr. Sultan Al Jaber.



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- The UAE has **pioneered renewable energy in the heart of the hydrocarbon industry**. Resulting from over 15 years of R&D and policy work, solar is now available at 1.35 cents per kilowatt hour, the lowest rate in the world and the cheapest daytime power source compared to all other options in the Middle East. The UAE has three of the world's largest solar plants and is rapidly building more.
- **As a starting point, the UAE has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** by 23.5 percent by 2030 in its United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for COP26. By 2050, at least half of the nation's energy needs will come from renewables and other near-zero carbon sources.
- **Rapid deployment of renewable energy projects is helping to reduce the UAE's carbon footprint.** Operating three of the world's largest and lowest-cost solar plants – along with the expansion of civilian nuclear generating capacity – is contributing to the UAE's energy diversification.
- **The UAE is working to lower the carbon impact of hydrocarbons.** Recognizing that the world will continue to rely on oil and gas for now, the UAE is a leader in carbon capture, and is reducing the carbon intensity of its production operations.

