



مسارات التغيير: أثر حقيقي وليس مجرد وعود

المنتدى العالمي للاستدامة والمسؤولية الاجتماعية للمؤسسات

CURRENTS OF CHANGE: IMPACT BEYOND PROMISES

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY & CSR FORUM

2026 أكتوبر 13 - 12
12th - 13th OCTOBER 2026

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Note from the Founder & CEO

Dear Members, Partners and Friends, The global landscape continues to evolve under the weight of geopolitical instability, economic shifts and intensifying environmental challenges.

Across the Arab region, these dynamics are creating a complex operating environment that requires organisations to respond with agility, foresight, transparency and strong governance. Yet, within this uncertainty lies a defining strength—resilience. It is during such periods that institutions, leaders and communities are tested and more importantly, strengthened. In the United Arab Emirates, this resilience is reinforced by visionary leadership that consistently prioritises sustainability, stability and long-term economic growth. The UAE has positioned itself as a global example of how proactive governance, innovation and inclusive development can coexist, even in times of uncertainty. This provides organisations operating within the region with both confidence and clarity—enabling them to continue progressing with purpose.

Against this backdrop, the 19th Cycle of the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards continues to advance with strong momentum. This cycle represents more than a recognition platform; it is a call to action. Organisations today are expected to go beyond commitments and demonstrate measurable, verifiable impact. In a time where scrutiny is increasing and expectations are higher, transparency, accountability and data-driven performance are no longer optional—they are essential. We strongly encourage organisations to view this cycle as an opportunity to benchmark their efforts, strengthen their strategies and position themselves as leaders in responsible business practices. In parallel, preparations for the 14th Cycle of the Global Sustainability & CSR Forum are progressing with great focus and dedication.

The Forum continues to evolve as a premier regional platform, bringing together global thought leaders, policymakers, industry experts and practitioners to drive meaningful dialogue and actionable outcomes. Scheduled for **12th & 13th October**, this year's Forum will further strengthen its role in shaping the sustainability agenda across the region, with a strong emphasis on practical implementation, collaboration, and innovation.

Despite the external challenges shaping the global environment, ACSRN remains steadfast in its mission to advance CSR and sustainability across sectors. The past month reflected our continued engagement and active participation across a range of strategic platforms. We were delighted to serve as the CSR Partner for the EEG Gala Dinner on **2nd April**, reinforcing our long-standing collaboration in promoting environmental stewardship and responsible development. On **3rd April**, I engaged in discussions related to the Global Urban Development (GUD) Board Meeting, contributing to ongoing global dialogue on sustainable urban transformation and future-ready cities. Our Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards Clinic on **14th April** provided organisations with valuable insights and practical guidance to enhance the quality and impact of their submissions.

The session reaffirmed the importance of structured reporting, alignment with international frameworks and the ability to clearly demonstrate outcomes. On **21st April**, I participated in "Limitless: The UAE Power Women's Forum," organised by Tristar in partnership with Gulf News. The Forum

highlighted the growing role of women leaders in driving resilience, innovation, and sustainable growth, particularly in navigating today's complex global landscape. This was followed by a virtual strategic roundtable held on **27th April**, convened in collaboration with Global Urban Development (GUD) and selected stakeholders, focusing on the EnergyNet concept and future energy systems. The discussion explored how decentralised, resilient, and cost-efficient energy models can transform the way energy is generated, stored, and distributed.

Our continued participation in sector-specific engagements reflects our commitment to advancing sustainability across diverse areas. On **29th April**, EEG hosted its 2nd Panel Discussion of the year on Decarbonising Packaging, bringing together key stakeholders to explore practical, climate-aligned solutions, with the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) as the CSR Partner. Additionally, participation in the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) Governance & Nominations Committee Meeting on **30th April** reinforces our contribution to global governance processes that support sustainable transformation within the built environment.

At the global level, my active involvement in the UN Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance engagements continues to strengthen ACSRN's position within international sustainability and sustainable finance discourse. Through participation in key meetings, strategy sessions and global platforms, we are contributing to conversations that shape how private capital can be mobilised towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

These engagements go beyond representation—they enable us to bring regional perspectives into global discussions, while also translating international frameworks and best practices into actionable strategies for organisations within the Middle East. By bridging global sustainability finance dialogue with regional implementation, ACSRN plays a critical role in ensuring that organisations are aligned with evolving global expectations around ESG, transparency and impact-driven investment.

At the same time, our ongoing work in Tristar Assurance continues to strengthen the credibility and transparency of sustainability reporting, ensuring that organisations move towards more robust and accountable ESG practices. I am also encouraged by the growing recognition of regional leadership through platforms such as the Circular 100 Middle East Magazine, which highlights individuals and organisations driving measurable progress in circular economy practices.

Such recognition reflects the broader shift towards impact-driven sustainability across the region. You can read more about these engagements inside this newsletter. As we move forward, it is increasingly evident that sustainability must no longer be treated as a choice, but as an integral and non-negotiable part of how organisations operate, make decisions and create value.

It must become part and parcel of core business strategy, embedded across all functions and levels. The transition towards a more sustainable and resilient future will require collective action, stronger partnerships and a clear focus on measurable outcomes.





ACSRN News

Sustainability Partner at EEG's 29th Annual Corporate Gala Dinner

On 2nd April, the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) hosted its 29th Annual Corporate Gala Dinner in Dubai, bringing together leaders from government, private sector, diplomatic missions and civil society to celebrate sustainability achievements and strengthen partnerships. The Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) was proud to serve as the Sustainability Partner for this distinguished event, reaffirming its commitment to advancing responsible business practices and supporting impactful environmental initiatives across the region. Held under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness Engr. Sheikh Salim Bin Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of the RAK Civil Aviation Authority and member of the Executive Council of the Government of Ras Al Khaimah - the gathering took place at a time of evolving geopolitical dynamics, underscoring the importance of resilience, collaboration and sustainability as key pillars of long-term development. Under the theme "Rooted Together: Partnerships Sustaining a Greener Tomorrow," the evening highlighted the critical role of cross-sector collaboration in advancing ESG, climate action and sustainable development. A total of 52 entities were recognised for their measurable contributions to environmental and sustainability initiatives with EEG in 2025, reflecting the growing maturity and commitment of organisations across diverse sectors. The outcomes presented during the evening demonstrated tangible impact across key areas, including waste diversion, carbon mitigation, environmental conservation and youth engagement—further reinforcing the importance of structured CSR approaches and measurable performance. As a Sustainability Partner, ACSRN continues to support such platforms that promote knowledge exchange, recognise leadership and drive collective action, while enabling organisations to align with regional and global sustainability frameworks. The Gala Dinner served as a celebration of achievements and as a reaffirmation of shared responsibility to advance sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth across the Arab region.



Global Engagement: Advancing Sustainable Development and CSR

Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder and CEO of the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) and Vice Chair of Global Urban Development (GUD), held a dedicated session with Chairman and CEO of GUD, following the Board of Directors meeting that took place on 3rd April.

The discussion provided an opportunity to align on key global sustainability initiatives and explore their relevance within the CSR and ESG landscape. A central focus was the progress of the EnergyNet concept, currently being advanced across Sweden, the European Union and the United States, which aims to promote decentralised, resilient and sustainable energy systems. The session also covered the development of Sustainable Innovation Zones across several European cities and academic institutions under the EU-funded Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) EDITUA project. These initiatives are designed to accelerate integrated urban solutions that align closely with sustainability, innovation and responsible development goals.

The exchange further explored opportunities to strengthen collaboration and knowledge-sharing between global platforms and regional stakeholders, particularly in advancing CSR practices, sustainable development strategies and private sector engagement within the Middle East. Dr. Habiba's continued engagement at this level reflects ACSRN's commitment to connecting global sustainability dialogue with regional action, while supporting organisations in embedding responsible and impactful CSR practices. Further reinforcing this engagement, a virtual strategic roundtable was convened on 27th April with GUD and selected stakeholders to advance discussions on the EnergyNet concept and its practical application. The session explored how such decentralised and resilient energy systems can be adapted within the UAE context—particularly in supporting energy security, enhancing efficiency, and integrating sustainable solutions across urban developments.

Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards Clinic

The Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) successfully conducted the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards Clinic on 14th April, bringing together organisations from across sectors for a focused and interactive session aimed at strengthening the quality of award submissions.

The clinic provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the Awards framework, including detailed guidance on the evaluation criteria, scoring methodology and submission requirements. Emphasis was placed on helping organisations effectively present their sustainability initiatives, align with international standards and demonstrate measurable impact. Through practical examples and expert-led discussions, the session addressed common gaps observed in previous submissions, particularly in areas such as data accuracy, documentation and impact reporting. Participants were also guided on how to structure their applications more strategically, ensuring clarity, consistency and alignment with best practices in CSR and ESG.

The session proved to be highly valuable for both first-time applicants and returning participants, equipping them with the tools and insights needed to enhance their submissions and benchmark their efforts against leading practices in the region. This initiative reflects ACSRN's continued commitment to supporting organisations in advancing responsible business practices and strengthening the overall standard of sustainability reporting and recognition across the Middle East.





Limitless: The UAE Power Women's Forum

Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, participated as a distinguished speaker at "Limitless: The UAE Power Women's Forum", organised by Tristar in partnership with Gulf News, held on **21st April** at Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai. The Forum convened prominent women leaders, decision-makers and industry experts to examine the evolving dynamics of leadership in today's complex and rapidly changing environment.

The discussions underscored the importance of resilience, adaptability and purpose-driven leadership in navigating uncertainty while driving sustainable and inclusive growth. Dr. Habiba contributed to the panel discussion titled "Leading Through Uncertainty: Women Shaping UAE's Future," where she shared insights on how leaders can translate influence into measurable impact, particularly in advancing sustainability and responsible business practices.

The session highlighted the role of women leaders in fostering innovation, strengthening organisational resilience and aligning business strategies with broader ESG and CSR priorities.

The Forum featured a series of keynote addresses and panel discussions addressing critical themes such as resilient leadership, sustainability-driven innovation and the importance of well-being in leadership effectiveness. These conversations provided valuable perspectives on how organisations can build stronger, more inclusive and future-ready leadership models.

Dr. Habiba's participation reflects ACSRN's ongoing commitment to advancing CSR and ESG dialogue, empowering leadership, and supporting organisations in embedding sustainability at the core of their strategies.

The engagement also reinforced the importance of inclusive leadership in shaping resilient and forward-looking organisations. It further highlighted the value of collaboration and knowledge-sharing in driving meaningful progress across sustainability and responsible business practices.



EEG Hosts 2nd Panel Discussion of 2026

The Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN), as the CSR Partner, supported the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) in successfully conducting its 2nd Panel Discussion of 2026 on **29th April** in Holiday Inn & Suites Dubai Science Park, under the theme "Decarbonising Packaging: Life Cycle As-

essment (LCA), Carbon Footprint, Innovation and Climate-Neutral Strategies." The session convened policymakers, industry leaders, sustainability experts, academia, and youth to examine practical pathways for reducing packaging-related emissions and advancing circular, climate-aligned systems. The discussion reinforced the growing importance of addressing packaging as a key contributor to Scope 3 emissions across industries, and the need for organisations to adopt more responsible and data-driven approaches.

From a CSR and ESG perspective, the panel highlighted the critical role of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and carbon footprinting in enabling organisations to make informed decisions, enhance transparency, and demonstrate measurable impact. The discussions aligned closely with ACSRN's mandate of supporting organisations in strengthening sustainability reporting, improving accountability, and embedding responsible business practices across value chains. Panellists explored the regulatory, technical, and operational dimensions of decarbonising packaging, with particular emphasis on low-carbon material selection, circular design, recycling infrastructure, and digital tools for carbon accounting and supply chain traceability.

The discussion also underscored the importance of aligning corporate strategies with emerging policy frameworks, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and ensuring that climate-neutral claims are supported by credible, verifiable data. A key takeaway from the session was the importance of cross-sector collaboration, with governments, private sector entities, academia, and civil society working together to accelerate the transition towards sustainable packaging systems. As CSR Partner, ACSRN reaffirms its commitment to facilitating platforms that drive meaningful dialogue, support knowledge exchange, and enable organisations to translate sustainability commitments into measurable outcomes. Initiatives such as this panel discussion play a vital role in advancing responsible business practices and strengthening the region's collective efforts towards climate action and sustainable development.





WorldGBC Governance & Nominations Committee Meeting

Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder and CEO of the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN), attended the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) Governance & Nominations Committee Meeting, held virtually on **30th April**, in her capacity as a Board Director of WorldGBC. The meeting convened committee members to review key governance priorities and strengthen organisational frameworks that support effective leadership and strategic direction. Discussions centred on enhancing transparency, reinforcing accountability, and aligning governance structures with evolving global best practices. Particular focus was placed on ensuring robust leadership through effective nominations and succession planning, recognising the importance of strong governance in driving the global green building agenda. These efforts are essential in supporting WorldGBC's mission to accelerate sustainable transformation across the built environment. Dr. Habiba's engagement reflects ACSRN's continued commitment to contributing to global sustainability governance, while promoting responsible leadership, strategic alignment, and impactful decision-making that support climate action and sustainable development across sectors.

Media Engagements

1. Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder and CEO of the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN), has been featured in the Circular 100 Middle East Magazine 2026, an initiative by the Recycling Expo Middle East that recognises individuals driving measurable impact across recycling, waste management, and the circular economy in the region. This recognition reflects her continued leadership in advancing CSR and sustainability across the Middle East, particularly in embedding responsible business practices and strengthening ESG frameworks within organisations. In her feature, Dr. Habiba highlighted key challenges facing the sector, including the gap between commitments and implementation, the need for stronger data and reporting mechanisms, and the importance of shifting from linear to circular economic models. She also emphasised the role of platforms such as ACSRN in supporting organisations to move beyond intent towards measurable and accountable impact, through initiatives such as the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards and regional engagement platforms. Her inclusion in the Circular 100 Middle East underscores the growing importance of leadership, collaboration, and transparency in driving sustainable and circular economies across the region.

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2. Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi was also featured in Gulf News through her opinion article titled "Resilience in Uncertainty: UAE's Sustainability Edge." In the article, she highlighted the growing importance of embedding sustainability and ESG principles into core business strategies, particularly in times of global uncertainty. She emphasised that responsible, values-driven growth is essential for long-term resilience, competitiveness, and stakeholder trust.

Dr. Habiba also underscored the need for organisations to move beyond commitments towards measurable and transparent impact, reinforcing the role of CSR in shaping sustainable and future-ready business models. Her feature reflects ACSRN's continued contribution to advancing CSR and sustainability dialogue across the region.

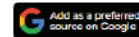
Resilience in uncertainty: UAE's sustainability edge

Why values-driven growth is key in a fragile global order

Last updated: April 15, 2026 | 05:43

By Habiba Al Marashi, Special to Gulf News

3 MIN READ



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Tristar Assurance: Strengthening Credibility in Sustainability Reporting

Tristar, a leading energy logistics company, continues to demonstrate strong commitment to sustainability, supported by its long-standing partnership with the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN). The organisation remains actively engaged in advancing environmental responsibility, reducing carbon emissions and implementing initiatives that positively impact both its workforce and the wider community. As sustainability expectations continue to evolve globally, the importance of transparent, accurate and credible reporting has become increasingly critical. In this context, ACSRN is proud to have once again provided independent external assurance for Tristar's Sustainability Report, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to accountability and best practice. External assurance plays a vital role in validating the integrity of sustainability disclosures, ensuring that reported data is reliable, consistent and aligned with recognised standards. This independent verification strengthens stakeholder confidence and enhances the overall credibility of the report. ACSRN has been an active partner in Tristar's sustainability reporting journey through ongoing assurance over the years, applying a rigorous and structured approach to evaluate processes, data and disclosures. This continued collaboration reflects a shared commitment to advancing responsible business practices and setting a benchmark for high-quality sustainability reporting. As more organisations move towards enhanced ESG compliance and disclosure, ACSRN remains dedicated to supporting its partners in building robust reporting frameworks, strengthening transparency and contributing meaningfully to sustainable development.

GISD Engagements

1. Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder and CEO of the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) and Board Member of the UN Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, participated in the GISD Outreach & Engagement Meeting held on **7th April**. The session focused on strengthening the Alliance's global outreach and enhancing its impact across regions. Key updates were shared on upcoming platforms such as the SDG Investment Fair and the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, while also highlighting expansion efforts in priority countries including Kenya, Colombia, and Indonesia. The meeting further outlined major global events scheduled for 2026, reinforcing the importance of strategic partnerships and coordinated engagement in advancing sustainable investment.





2. In addition, ACSRN attended the 2026 SDG Investment Fair from **21st to 23rd April 2026** through live sessions broadcast on UN Web TV. The Fair provided a global platform for governments, investors, and development partners to engage on investment opportunities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Discussions focused on unlocking capital for high-impact projects, strengthening public-private collaboration, and addressing barriers to sustainable investment, particularly in emerging markets. Through these engagements, ACSRN continues to reinforce its commitment to connecting global sustainability discourse with regional CSR and ESG implementation, while supporting the advancement of responsible investment and long-term sustainable development.



Gap Analysis Workshop 18th May

This comprehensive two-day training programme is designed to equip organisations with the knowledge and practical tools required to develop high-quality sustainability reports aligned with international standards. Participants will gain in-depth understanding of key reporting frameworks, including guidance on structuring disclosures, identifying material topics, and ensuring data accuracy and transparency. The training will also cover best practices in integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) indicators into reporting processes, enabling organisations to effectively communicate their sustainability performance. Through expert-led sessions and real-world examples, participants will learn how to enhance the credibility and impact of their reports, while aligning with stakeholder expectations and global sustainability benchmarks. This programme is particularly beneficial for organisations seeking to strengthen their reporting practices and demonstrate measurable progress in their sustainability journey.



Upcoming News

Sustainability Reporting Training 13th - 14th May

This comprehensive two-day training programme is designed to equip organisations with the knowledge and practical tools required to develop high-quality sustainability reports aligned with international standards. Participants will gain in-depth understanding of key reporting frameworks, including guidance on structuring disclosures, identifying material topics, and ensuring data accuracy and transparency. The training will also cover best practices in integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) indicators into reporting processes, enabling organisations to effectively communicate their sustainability performance. Through expert-led sessions and real-world examples, participants will learn how to enhance the credibility and impact of their reports, while aligning with stakeholder expectations and global sustainability benchmarks. This programme is particularly beneficial for organisations seeking to strengthen their reporting practices and demonstrate measurable progress in their sustainability journey.

[Register Here](#)

Member News

Member Spotlight: WMSJ Global

The Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) is pleased to highlight its member, WMSJ Global, for its continued commitment to advancing sustainability and resilience within the business landscape. Recently featured in Khaleej Times, WMSJ Global has been announced as the Sustainability Resilience Partner for the 4th edition of The Journey Net Zero, reinforcing its role as a forward-thinking organisation dedicated to shaping sustainable futures. At the core of WMSJ Global's approach is a strong emphasis on integrating innovation, resilience, and sustainability into strategic decision-making. The organisation supports businesses in navigating complex challenges by transforming them into opportunities for growth, while ensuring long-term value creation for both organisations and society. Their participation in platforms such as The Journey Net Zero highlights the importance of local action in driving global impact, bringing together leaders and changemakers to accelerate the transition towards climate-neutral and resilient economies.

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Feature Article

How Conflict Impacts Our Environment

Today, the world faces record levels of conflict and violence with a significant impact on people. In 2023 alone, over 170 armed conflicts were recorded. By the end of the year, nearly 120 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order.

While the human cost of war is undeniable and profound, the environment also suffers immense and often-overlooked consequences. Beyond the immediate destruction, conflicts disrupt ecosystems, deplete natural resources, pollute the environment, and jeopardize the health of our planet for generations to come.

On the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (6 November), we examine why the environmental impact of war is a complex and urgent issue that demands global attention.

Impact on natural resources

Warfare disrupts the delicate balance of nature in many ways. Environmental damage brings devastating consequences for natural resources, critical ecosystems, and people's health, livelihoods, and security. When forests are cleared for military purposes, fertile lands and vital water resources can become contaminated.

Militaries often clear vegetation or otherwise disrupt ecosystems to remove cover for enemy combatants or make areas uninhabitable and force local populations to leave, with major impacts on nature. Local communities reported the use of such tactics during Sudan's civil war and in Iraq, where wetlands were drained.

In Ukraine, large swathes of land are at risk of contamination with landmines and unexploded ordnance. Its soil, waterways, and forests have been polluted by shelling, fires, and floods.

Clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance often takes decades and requires significant investment. In Ukraine, costs are expected to be around US\$34.6 billion.

Emissions and pollution

According to a study by Scientists for Global Responsibility and the Conflict and Environment Observatory, militaries account for an estimated 5.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The heavy energy use resulting from conflicts exacerbates the climate crisis, both through direct greenhouse gas emissions from military activities and indirect effects at the global level. Emissions from military activities—both in maintaining militaries and actual engagement in

conflict—were not fully covered by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol or the 2015 Paris Agreement, with states having reservations on the grounds of national security concerns.

Damage to chemical industrial sites causes fires and releases pollutants into the air, water, and soil, creating significant immediate and longer-term human health and ecological hazards through contamination. During the first Gulf War in 1991, hundreds of oil well fires burned uncontrollably in Kuwait and affected air quality on a global scale.

More than 600 oil wells were reportedly destroyed or set on fire, resulting in the daily release of up to 500,000 metric tons of pollutants that affected the air quality of surrounding states.

During the 34-day war between Israel and Lebanon in 2006, the bombing of the Jiyeh power plant in Lebanon resulted in the release of 10,000 to 15,000 tons of oil into the Mediterranean Sea, affecting most of the Lebanese coastline and partly extending into Syria. The spill resulted in the deaths of seabirds and marine life.

Armed conflicts use large quantities of munitions containing heavy metals and depleted uranium, and explosive chemicals, all toxic even in modest quantities, with devastating impacts on human health and the environment.

From contaminated lands and polluted waterways to the release of toxic substances and greenhouse gases, the environmental toll of war is immense and far-reaching. Recognizing this impact is the first step towards mitigating harm, promoting environmental remediation, and ultimately, preventing future conflicts. Research for the explainer is largely from the UN Environment Programme's reports on the Environmental Impact of the Conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza.



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Best Practice

DUBAI ELECTRICITY & WATER AUTHORITY Large Public Sector Category

Winner Arabia CSR Awards 2024

Brief

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) is a pivotal entity in the UAE's journey towards sustainability and innovation in the utility sector. Established in 1992, DEWA is the exclusive provider of electricity and water in the Emirate of Dubai, serving over 1.2 million customers as of 2023. With a strategic vision of achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2050, DEWA has integrated the principles of the UN SDGs into its operations, prioritising clean energy and environmental stewardship.

In 2023, DEWA's sustainability initiatives resulted in a reduction of 10.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions and an electricity transmission loss of just 2%, far below global averages. Its Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park is the largest single-site solar project in the world, with a total installed capacity of 2,627 MW. DEWA is setting global benchmarks in energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment, highlighting its exemplary role in achieving sustainable development while contributing significantly to Dubai's economic and environmental goals.

DEWA's strategic framework integrates ESG principles to achieve sustainable growth while addressing global and local challenges. The organisation's 19 objectives, outlined in its Strategy Map, align with the UN SDGs and local strategies such as the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the UAE Centennial 2071.

Summary & Lessons Learnt

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority demonstrates an unwavering commitment to sustainability through its vision: "A globally leading sustainable innovative corporation committed to achieving Net-Zero by 2050." This vision is aligned with the UAE's strategic goals, including the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Carbon Abatement Strategy, which aim to transition to a low-carbon economy.

DEWA's journey towards sustainable development has been marked by a proactive approach to innovation, stakeholder engagement and strategic foresight. A key lesson is the importance of aligning with global sustainability trends such as decarbonisation, renewable energy adoption and the circular economy.

DEWA's commitment to achieving Net-Zero emissions by 2050 is backed by its substantial investment in renewable energy which has reached 2,627 MW in 2023. Additionally, annual surveys and a clear framework for community engagement ensure that DEWA remains attuned to the needs of its stakeholders. Its success in maintaining high satisfaction rates, such as the 93.55% community satisfaction rate in 2023, underscores the effectiveness of its strategies.

DEWA's use of tools like the Partnership Value Assessment (PVA) Toolkit to assess collaboration impact, reflects a commitment to refining processes and maintaining long-term relationships that support its sustainability objectives. DEWA's commitment to sustainability, innovation and governance has solidified its role as a global leader in the utility sector.

Its forward-thinking strategies, aligned with Dubai's sustainability goals, have led to impressive achievements, including a 41.73% energy efficiency improvement since 2006 and the significant reduction of 10.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions in 2023. DEWA's focus on innovation, from the SAT-2 nanosatellite to AI-driven smart grids, continues to redefine the energy sector.

As DEWA moves towards achieving its Net-Zero goal by 2050, its comprehensive approach of blending technological innovation, stakeholder engagement and strategic foresight, serves as an exemplary model for other organisations worldwide.

With its track record of success and commitment to a sustainable future, DEWA is an inspiration for industries aiming to contribute to a greener and smarter world.

