

Dubai International Academic City Phase-III moves closer to get Leed certification

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The Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (Seed) of Tecom Investments, announced Phase-III of Dubai International Academic City (DIAC), the world's only free zone dedicated to international higher education, has moved closer to obtaining Leed Certification after completing all necessary documentation procedures.

DIAC's Phase-III is a cluster of five buildings that has adopted several green building features. Based on current utility analysis, it is expected to be highly resource efficient and environment-friendly.

The buildings have adopted several energy conservation measures in design including heat recovery wheels, enhanced levels of insulation, optimization of fresh air through variable speed drives on air handling units, recessed windows, and significantly low lighting power densities. These features will make this cluster 21.7% more energy efficient than the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1 - 2004 standards.

DIAC Phase-III will also consume 30% less water than the standards set by US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) as well as 40% less irrigation water. These savings have been achieved by the installation of ultra-low flow water restrictors in wash basins and dual flush tanks in wash rooms, as well as additives in the soil for the landscape areas.

Dr Ayoub Kazim, Executive Director for Dubai International Academic City, said:

'We are proud to become the pioneers in implementing Tecom Investments' Sustainable Development Policy, reflecting our profound commitment to be a more environment-friendly organization. Dubai Knowledge Village and DIAC are committed to reducing carbon emissions, a fact underpinned by the implementation of a series of initiatives such as the water conservation programme, and the phase out of halogen lamps.'

Other green features at DIAC Phase-III include energy metering for various end uses, and significant utilization of locally or regionally made products. In addition, 'gaf', a local native tree that requires little or no irrigation or maintenance is also planted within the premises.

Ali bin Towaih, Executive Director of Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (Seed), Tecom Investments, said: 'Through a series of energy and water conservation as well as Leed Certification programmes, Tecom Investments continues to validate its commitment to endorsing green-friendly measures.

'As a knowledge-based corporation with the largest number of existing building projects pursuing Leed certification in the region, Tecom Investments has demonstrated relentless commitment towards leading sustainable development in the region. Our objective is to make our developments more energy, water, and resource efficient and attach a certain level of social accountability.'

DIAC currently hosts more than 30 reputed international universities of higher learning from diverse regions, including the US, the UK, Belgium, Iran, Russia, Australia, Sri Lanka, France, Pakistan and India, catering to the academic requirements of over 12,000 students.

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