

# UAE to take world lead on renewable energy

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**The UAE is set to become the founding member of a new International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena), it was announced Monday at a founding conference in Germany.**

The move comes a week after the Abu Dhabi government made a public commitment to developing a seven percent renewable energy source by 2020 – at present the emirate relies solely on expendable energy sources.

*RENEWABLE LEAD: The UAE has plans to become the HQ for the new International Renewable Energy Agency*

Minister of foreign affairs said the Abu Dhabi Government had created Masdar to drive forward the development, deployment and adoption of renewable energy around the world through investment, research and partnerships.

The UAE would actively pursue the opportunity to host Irena headquarters in Abu Dhabi, and in particular within Masdar City, the world's first carbon neutral, zero waste city, fully powered by renewable energy, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said.

'We believe that renewable energy is crucial to the world's future prosperity,' he said at the conference in Bonn.

He added that the success of the renewable energy sector lay in cooperation on a global level and praised Germany and Spain for their lead on the world agenda.

"It is important that the world community works together to develop a consistent set of policies and frameworks that will encourage growth and rapid deployment on a large scale," Al Nahyan said.

Considering the size and population of Abu Dhabi, the seven percent renewable energy target is considered high.

In comparison, eight percent of the energy consumed in China in 2006 came from renewable sources. The EU's goal is to have 20 percent of its energy from such sources by 2020.

Masdar will provide operational support to the development of Irena. Last week hosted the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi which was attended by 16,427 people.

Masdar City has already attracted General Electric as its first major tenant and partner, and will eventually create 50,000 green collar jobs entirely focused on renewable energy and sustainability.

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