The Middle East's

Sustainability Leaders 2026

Across the Middle East, companies are increasingly embedding sustainability into day-to-day operations rather than treating it as a parallel agenda. Automated and AI-enabled systems are making energy use, water consumption and emissions easier to measure and manage. In the GCC, extreme heat and water scarcity make efficient cooling, water reuse and resilient food production immediate operational priorities.

Renewable energy capacity across Arab countries rose 28.9% year-on-year to 53.1 GW in 2025, led by Saudi Arabia, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Kingdom's renewable energy capacity surged by 86.8% year on year to 12,332 MW. By early 2026, Saudi Arabia had restored one million hectares of degraded land and planted more than 159 million trees, supported in part by water-harvesting efforts. The Kingdom aims to restore 2.5 million hectares and plant 215 million trees by 2030. Meanwhile, the UAE's Energy Strategy 2050 aims to triple renewable energy's contribution and invest $40.8 billion to $54.5 billion in the energy sector by 2030. The country has since raised its clean-energy target, covering renewables and nuclear power, to 35% by 2031.

Across the region, sustainability is increasingly translating into action and investment. In 2025, First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) mobilized $31.1 billion in sustainable and transition finance, reaching 76% of its $136 billion target. Masdar's operating projects generated 40.2 TWh of clean electricity that year, up 38% year on year, and in July 2026, it reached financial close on a $6.1 billion project combining 5.2 GW of solar capacity with 19 GWh of battery storage. By June 2026, Saudi Energy had connected approximately 17.8 GW of renewable capacity to the national grid and energized 18

GWh of battery storage. In manufacturing, Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) inaugurated the UAE's largest aluminium recycling plant in 2026, lifting its total recycling capacity above 400,000 tonnes annually.

This year's Sustainability Leaders list highlights executives driving sustainability and impact in the region's largest companies, with 145 entries spanning 17 categories: banks, development funds, energy and utilities, family business, financial services, food and agriculture, free zones, healthcare, investments and holding companies, manufacturing and industrials, oil and gas, real estate, renewable energy, technology and telecom, transport and logistics, travel and tourism, and waste management.

The UAE is home to 75 entries, followed by Saudi Arabia with 29, and Qatar and Egypt with 14 each. The list features CEOs, chairpersons, and chief sustainability officers.

The UAE is home to 75 entries, followed by Saudi Arabia with 29, Egypt with 14, and Qatar with 13. The list features CEOs, chairpersons, and chief sustainability officers.

Leaders 2026

Banking

1. Hana Al Rostamani

First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)

2. Abdulla Mubarak Al-Khalifa

QNB Group

3. Waleed Al-Mogbel

alrajhi bank

4. Tareq Al Sadhan

SNB Group

5. Nadir Ben Sami Al-Koraya

Riyad Bank

6. Ahmed Abdelaal

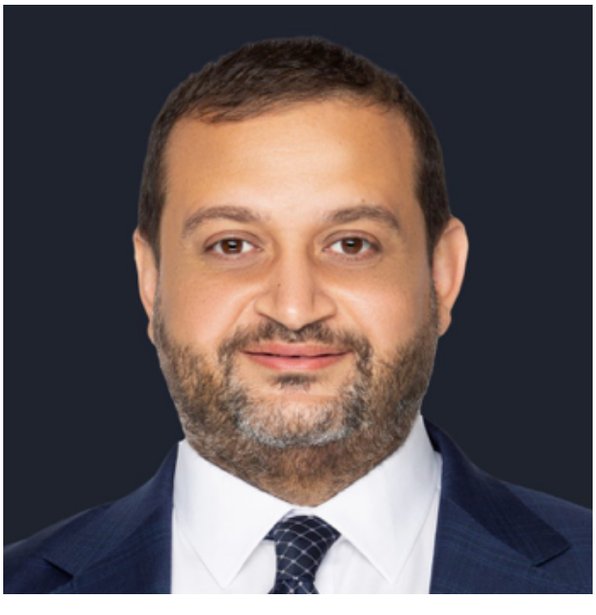
Mashreq

7. Khaled Al Shamlan

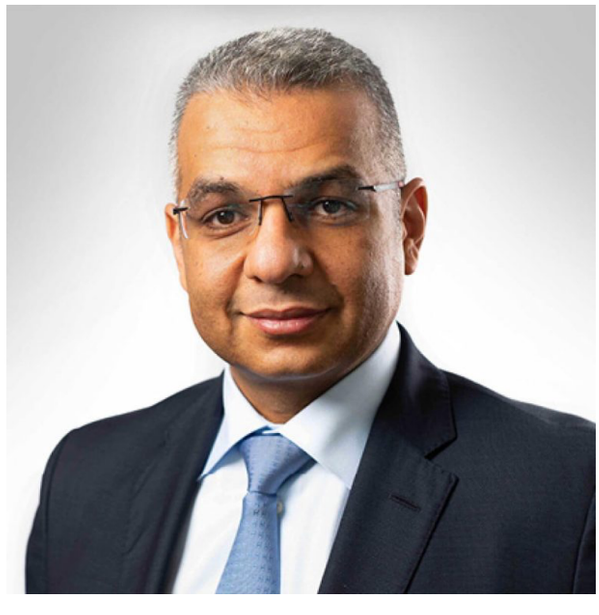
Kuwait Finance House (KFH)

8. Tony Cripps

Saudi Awwal Bank (SAB)



9. Amir Hanna



10. Mohamed Abdelbary

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK Group)

Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB)

11. Adnan Chilwan

DIB

12. Bassel Gamal

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB)

13. Abdullah Ali AlKhalifa

alinma Bank

14. Abdulbasit Al Shaibei

Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB)

15. Mustafa Al Khalfawi

Ajman Bank

Development Funds

1. Mohamed Saif Al Suwaidi

Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD)

2. Abdul Aziz bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND)

3. Fahad Hamad Al-Sulaiti

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)

4. Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad

Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)

5. Fawzi Yousef Alhunaif

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (Arab Fund)

Energy & Utilities

1. Jasim Husain Thabet

2. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer

TAQA Group

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)

3. Khalid AlGhamdi

Saudi Energy (SE)

4. Yousif Ahmed Al Ali

Etihad Water and Electricity (EtihadWE)

5. Samir J. Serhan

Acwa

6. Ahmad Bin Shafar

Emirates Central Cooling Systems Corporation (Empower)

7. Yousif Al Hammadi

Tabreed

8. Walid Sheta

Schneider Electric

9. Hussein Shoukry

Siemens Energy

10. Mohammed Halawani

International Water Distribution Company (TAWZEA)

Family Businesses

1. Ahmed Galal Ismail

Majid Al Futtaim Holding

2. Sherif Beshara

Mohamed & Obaid Almulla Group;
American Hospital Dubai

3. Shahad Nejaim

Al-Dabbagh Group (ADG)

4. Hassan Allam; Amr Allam

Hassan Allam Holding

5. Ziad Manaseer

Manaseer Group

Financial Services

1. Mohammed Alardhi

Investcorp

2. Rashed Sharif

SNB Capital

3. Dalia Khorshid

Beltone Holding

4. Hanaa Helmy

EFG Holding

5. Mohamed Hussain Al Nowais

Waha Capital

Food & Agriculture

1. Fawaz Aljasser

Almarai

2. Salmeen Alameri

Agthia Group

3. Dhafer Al Qasimi

Silal Group

4. Ahmed Al Suwaidi

Al Dahra

5. Muhammad Abbas Khan

Tanmiah Food Company

6. Marek Warzywoda

Baladna

7. Sameh Mahmoud Hassan

Savola Group

8. Sky Kurtz

Pure Harvest Smart Farms

9. Seif Thabet

Juhayna Food Industries

10. Kenneth D'Costa

Barakat Group

Freezones

1. Feryal Ahmadi

Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC)

2. Mohammed H. F. Al-Thani

Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ)

3. Moustafa Shaikhon

Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE)

4. Arif Amiri

DIFC Authority

5. Mansoor Al-Khater

Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)

Healthcare

1. Shaista Asif

PureHealth Group

2. Azad Moopen

Aster DM Healthcare

3. Faisal Al Nassar

Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Services Group (HMG)

4. Dimitris Moulavasilis

M42