

# **DIAC phase-III becomes Middle East's first and largest LEED certified academic facility**

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**Dubai International Academic City announced its Phase-III complex has achieved the coveted status of the first and the largest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified academic facility in the Middle East.**

DIAC phase-III has received the Silver LEED certification, and is expected to save approximately Dhs2.3m per year from reduced energy costs, district cooling demand changes, irrigation water costs, sewage tanker and domestic water cost.

Comprising four academic building and a food court spread over a total built up area of 600,000 sq feet, DIAC Phase-III features several green building components such as 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.

The mechanisms are anticipated to make the cluster 21.7% more energy efficient than the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1 - 2004 standards.

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

'The Silver LEED certification of DIAC Phase-III buildings reflects our profound commitment to evolve as a more environment-friendly organization. Dubai International Academic City is committed to reducing carbon emissions, a fact underpinned by the implementation of a series of initiatives such as the energy and water conservation programmes.'

'We are committed to providing our students and faculty a healthy and productive learning environment. And we hope to spread the message not only through demonstration, but also by encouraging our students to engage in green building assessment projects.'

DIAC's LEED-certification initiative was achieved with the collaboration of TECOM Investments' Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (SEED).

To date, TECOM Investments has a total of 46 projects seeking LEED certification. Each entity under the TECOM Investments umbrella currently boasts at least one building that is pursuing one category of LEED certification.

Ali bin Towaih, Executive Director of Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (SEED), TECOM Investments, said: 'While TECOM Investments is a knowledge-based corporation with the largest number of existing building projects pursuing LEED certification in the region, we continue to demonstrate our relentless commitment towards endorsing sustainable development in the region that will make our projects more energy, water and resource efficient. Our primary goal is to attach a certain level of accountability to our developments.'

Over the last two years, TECOM Investments has taken a proactive approach to reducing its

carbon footprint in the region. It recently earned the distinction of becoming the first-ever corporation in the Middle East to implement a Sustainable Development Policy, providing a comprehensive guideline for all TECOM buildings to reduce energy costs.

Through its series of energy and water conservation and ongoing recycling programmes, TECOM further validates its commitment to endorsing green-friendly measures.

(AME Info)