

## **DM to Draw up Green Building Code by May**

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DUBAI - The Dubai Municipality's Green Building Code is expected to be drawn up by May, four months later than expected, a senior civic body official said.

The legislative framework for DM's Green Building Code is expected to be applied to all the developers and buildings of the emirate in a couple of months, said Essa Al Maidour, the Assistant Director General for Engineering and Planning Sector.

Sources said that the delay has been due to the global financial meltdown hitting the majority of property developers, who were not prepared to take on the regulations.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, directed in 2007, that all buildings constructed in Dubai should meet the Green building standards.

The Dubai Municipality and DEWA were given the task of its implementation. The infrastructure and environment committee of the Executive Council had approved the implementation plan regarding the Green Building code in three phases, Maidour said.

"The first phase has been covered by issuing the DM circular on the Green building code. Dubai Municipality and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) are currently working with an International Consultant to put the green building regulations and their requirements for the second and third phases," he said.

As per the code, the new projects will have to comply with the energy- and water-efficiency requirements, landscaping facilities, waste-efficiency requirements, proper site selection, indoor and outdoor air quality requirements, etc.

There will be minimum requirements to be met by the developers. "Any developer who wants to go beyond these regulations is welcome and we encourage people to do more for the environment," Maidour said.

The official said that the DM and the other concerned authorities will ensure that the regulations are applied during all phases of a building, from getting the building permit, during the construction phase and getting the final completion certificate.

"Anyone who doesn't comply with the regulations will be treated similar to the one who doesn't comply with any building regulation," the official said.

{ Khaleej Times }