

# Qatar Green Building Council launched

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DOHA: The Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), an independent non-profit organisation committed to developing a sustainable approach to design and development of buildings in Qatar, was officially launched yesterday. The QGBC is the second member of the World Green Building Council (WGBC) in the Middle East and the first independent non-profit organisation committed to developing a sustainable property industry in Qatar.

The initiative is strongly supported by H H Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned and Qatar Foundation.

Announcing the formal launch of the Council, Issa M Al Mohannadi, Founder and Chairman of the Qatar Green Building Council, said: "We commit to join the world green building movement, encouraging the builders and developers in Qatar to adapt sustainable environmental practices to ensure a sustainable future for the coming generations of Qataris. As a growing country, it is important that we are responsible in our development and are conscious that what we do today will affect tomorrow. Ensuring this responsibility and consciousness exists, and is adopted by the industry, is the task that we have at the Qatar Green Building Council."

The Council's mission is to educate the public, generate and foster awareness among the people, develop a definitive set of clear environmental and green building best practice guidelines, and to support and commit to research and development, he said.

Replying to queries from the media, Al Mohannadi said the Council would basically function as an advisory body and tell the public about the benefits of green buildings to inspire people to follow the best practices in the construction sector.

"We are not a regulatory body. But our doors will be open to government agencies like **Ashghal, Kahramaa** and the Urban Planning and Development Authority (UPDA), which are involved in major development projects in Qatar. The Green Building Council will be the technical regulatory hub for these agencies", Al Mohannadi said.

"Our challenge is to convince people that environmental sustainability is something that must be taken seriously and implemented on a daily basis. Environmentally friendly language is widely used today, but we intend to make sure this language is actually affecting change in Qatar. People are saying a lot of great things about what they will do now let's see those words become measurable actions," he added.

Replying to another query, Al Mohannadi, who is also the CEO of **Dohaland**, said **DOHALAND's** prestigious Heart of Doha project will be launched with the strict specifications of the green building concept. Al Mohannadi said the QGBC is working with QSTP for a major solar energy project in Qatar.

The Council will support numerous certification programmes and internationally recognised benchmarks for sustainable building practices, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) of US, BREEAM of UK and Green Star of Australia.

**(Zawya)**

