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Área de Pesquisa:

(2) CIÊNCIAS EXATAS E DA TERRA, ENGENHARIAS

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- Esta prova é constituída de um texto técnico-científico em língua estrangeira, seguido de 5 (cinco) questões abertas relativas ao texto apresentado.
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Is Dubai's construction boom sustainable?

By Mark Lobel-BBC News



Dubai's addiction to construction is remarkable.

From my 31st floor bedroom window, I will soon be able to see the world's largest observation wheel. My beachside flat did not even exist 10 years ago. It shot up as part of a property bubble in Dubai, which spectacularly burst in 2008 but has gradually re-formed. Wildly ambitious construction projects put the desert state on the map. An average person in Dubai uses around double the amount of water than the global average. Now they are in fashion again, with plans to build: a rainforest in the desert; the world's largest shopping mall; the tallest twin towers on Earth. There is an Arabic saying that a believer does not get stung twice. That is surely the hope for Dubai's construction industry. It is back on its feet thanks to large foreign investment and loans.

Environmental footprint

It appears steadier, as it is based on strong consumer demand and a more regulated real estate market. One notable downside, however, has been Dubai's ever expanding muddy environmental footprint. An average person in Dubai: uses about double the amount of water than the global average; produces 2.5kg (5lb) of waste a day is among the world's worst carbon dioxide polluters. Gas turbines produce most of Dubai's energy. As a fuel source, this is a pretty clean option, as the grid's carbon emissions are only 60% of the world's average. The distribution of gas is also twice as efficient when compared globally, so the infrastructure is not the problem.

There is also the ambition to improve. Dubai's rulers want 15% of electricity from renewables, with 30% less consumed per head, by 2030. The renewables target looks achievable. Right now, as the searing summer draws ever closer - luckily, it is still cool enough to sit outside - the Sun is finally playing its part, thanks to a recent sea change in solar technology and prices. Solar panels may soon become more familiar on people's rooftops.

Reduced prices

A pricing scheme launched last week helps people save on their own electricity costs and encourages them to earn by feeding back to the grid. On a much larger scale, the push for the emirate's grid to have its own mass solar supply has received some good news. Saudi-based power plant developer and operator Acwa Power will provide Dubai with 200MW of the world's cheapest solar power, at below 4p per kWh, for 25-years. Acwa chief executive Paddy Padmanathan said big savings were possible from utilising the creditworthiness of DEWA, the state-owned electricity company.

The consumption target could be a much trickier challenge though, as that involves changing people's attitudes. DEWA already runs campaigns for people to turn down their air-conditioning in the summer months and do all the things responsible citizens are asked to do around the world, such as turn off lights and waste less.

Public awareness

Saeed Al Abbar, chair of the Emirates Green Building Council, told the BBC "awareness of sustainability issues has definitely increased significantly over the past few years". But the figures show there is still a long way to go. One step the government has already taken is to ensure all new public and private buildings are constructed according to a far-reaching set of green building regulations introduced last year. Saeed Al Abbar said: "Over 800 buildings have complied with the regulations so far at the design stage, which is a tremendous achievement. "The real challenge is in ensuring that the code requirements are fully incorporated in the completed constructions through rigorous quality control measures. "Government-backed environmental stunts have been used to help change attitudes. They also make good stories, such as this recent eagle flight and the opening of the Middle East's first eco-mosque.

Dubai now has just over five years to build what it calls "a monument to the green economy, a landmark in sustainable development", when it hosts Expo 2020. Some private projects may not help though. According to its developers, the Dubai Rainforest is a chance to learn about the jungle lifestyle in a dome-covered ecosystem. But Prof Ali El-Keblawy, director of the Sharjah Seed Bank and Herbarium, said it was challenging nature to create an artificial forest in harsh desert conditions and told a local newspaper, The National, the impact on the environment should be assessed before the project was built. That could indeed be sage advice for many of the constructions planned for Dubai, if the emirate is serious about its own environmental targets.

Adaptado de: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32041150>

EM HIPÓTESE ALGUMA, SERÁ CONSIDERADA A RESPOSTA NESTE CADERNO.

Depois de ler o texto, responda as questões a seguir em português.

QUESTÃO 01 - O vício de Dubai por construções é notável. Cite os três próximos projetos a serem colocados em prática no país.

QUESTÃO 02 - A preocupação com o meio-ambiente está mais constante em Dubai, contudo, ainda há aspectos que precisam de atenção. Cite três impactos negativos para com o meio-ambiente em Dubai.

QUESTÃO 03 - De que forma os governantes de Dubai pretendem contribuir com a sustentabilidade do meio-ambiente no que se refere ao uso da eletricidade?

QUESTÃO 04 - Quem são e o que o texto afirma sobre a Acwa Power e a DEWA?

QUESTÃO 05 - Saeed Al Abbar, presidente do Conselho de Construção Verde dos Emirados afirmou que a consciência das questões relacionadas à sustentabilidade aumentou significativamente ao longo dos últimos anos, mas que os números mostram que ainda há um longo caminho a percorrer. Neste sentido, que medida importante o governo já tomou no que se refere às construções em Dubai?
