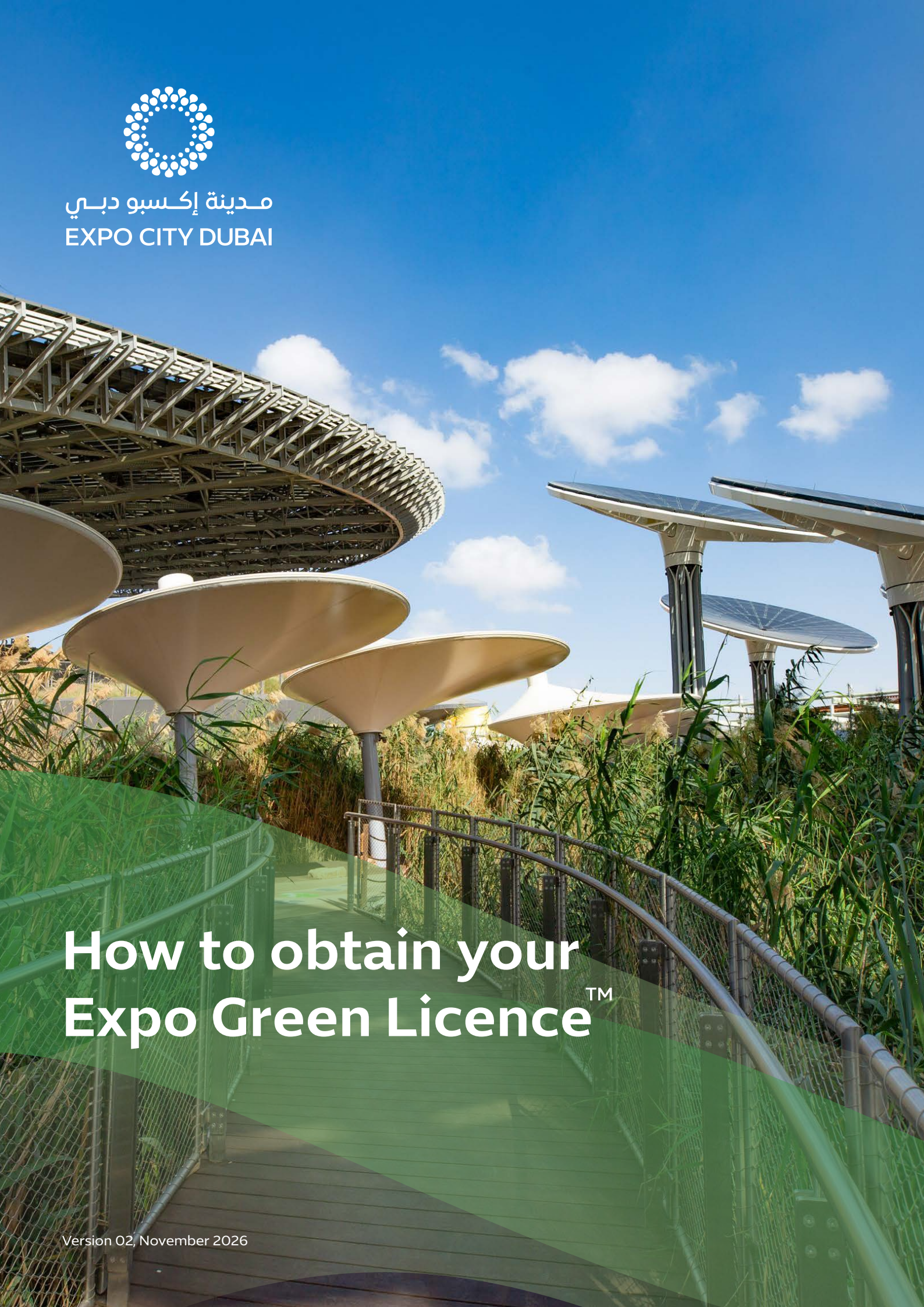
مـدينة إكـسبو دبـي
EXPO CITY DUBAI



How to obtain your Expo Green Licence™

Version 02, November 2026

Green Innovation District at Expo City Dubai

The UAE's first **Green Innovation District** – set up in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Tourism – is a landmark initiative set to redefine green industrial development by seamlessly integrating economic growth with environmental sustainability.

The **Green Innovation District** is a purpose-built ecosystem designed to attract, enable and scale sustainable and climate action-focused businesses, supporting the UAE's economic diversification and net zero ambition.

Designed with sustainability at its core, Expo City Dubai is the natural home for the **Green Innovation District**, enabling environmentally conscious businesses to scale and shape a new centre of green growth for the UAE.

Aiming to yield significant reductions in carbon emissions and waste, the **Green Innovation District** caters to businesses involved in circular economy, urban farming or offering sustainable products and services. It will offer flexible office, retail and F&B space as well as a number of light industrial units and farm plots.

Expo Green Licence

The Expo Green Licence, a pioneering product from Expo City, is designed to nurture environmentally conscious businesses committed to advancing clean energy, circular economy and green technologies and solutions by offering exclusive benefits that support their growth and innovation.



Benefits of the Expo Green Licence

The Expo Green Licence offers a number of exclusive benefits to qualifying businesses:

Business setup

- Issuance of a distinctive and recognisable Green licence that demonstrates commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices
- Selection from a first-of-its-kind directory of business activities that formally recognise and accurately reflect a variety of green businesses' services or products
- Discounted Green licence fees with flexible licence durations and setups, including dual licensing
- Flexible employee visa allocation to support growth
- Preferential leasing and occupancy terms

Startups and SMEs

- Consideration for UAE national growth programmes such as Future 100 and UAE Future 50
- Showcasing opportunities through the UAE Startup Forum held as part of the annual flagship Investopia UAE event
- Invitations facilitated by the Ministry of Economy and Tourism to local and international business missions and engagements
- Issuance of Riyada card for qualifying SMEs and startups – a Dubai government-issued SME recognition that provides access to incentives, discounts and business support programmes
- Collaboration opportunities with Majra, the UAE's national platform supporting sustainability-driven businesses and initiatives

Engagement support

- Business profile and logo visibility across Expo City platforms
- Annual social media promotion and ongoing digital engagement
- Complimentary introductory media training session
- Preferential rates on Expo City marketing and communications services





Innovation and intellectual property support

- Fast-track access to the UAE Green Intellectual Property Office Desk located at Expo City
- Support for commercialisation and investor connections

Sustainability services

- Annual customised sustainability clinic with tailored guidance to advance climate action, circular economy practices and sustainable operations
- Showcasing opportunities for businesses' sustainability achievements in the Expo City Dubai Annual Sustainability Report
- Expert support to achieve and maintain international sustainability certifications
- Expert support to ensure event safety and responsible event planning and delivery, aligned with Expo City Dubai's rigorous standards
- Worker welfare advisory support and training, aligned with international best practice
- Expert tools and guidance to measure, manage and communicate sustainability performance effectively
- Participation in sustainability-focused initiatives, events and conferences

Collaboration opportunities

- Participation in the Green Majlis, a new forum for leadership dialogue and action on sustainable solutions to further develop environmentally conscious businesses and networks
- Access to testbed facilities
- Facilitated introductions to industry, government and ecosystem partners



Expo Green Licence qualification pathways

The Expo Green Licence offers two qualification pathways to ensure accessibility for businesses at different stages of their sustainability journey. Businesses may qualify either through an existing recognised Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) rating or through the submission of evidence-based sustainability documentation.

Pathway 1: Direct qualification is available to businesses that already hold one or more of the below ESG ratings from an accredited agency. This pathway provides a streamlined route to qualification based on independently verified sustainability performance. Please refer to Table 1 for required ratings.

ESG Certificate name	Required rating
B Corp Certification	**Small & medium enterprise:** 80+ points on the B Impact Assessment (BIA) **Large enterprise:** > 110/200 points on BIA
Dubai Chambers ESG Label	Advanced
EcoVadis Medal	Silver, Gold or Platinum
MAJRA Verified Impact Certifications	**Small enterprise:** MAJRA Impact Seal - Silver, or MAJRA Verified Impact Project **Medium & large enterprise:** MAJRA Impact Seal – Gold or Platinum
Morgan Stanley Capital International ESG Rating	A, AA or AAA
Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global ESG	> 50
Sustainalytics (Morningstar) ESG Risk Rating	Low or Negligible Risk

Table 1: ESG ratings guide

Pathway 2: Evidence-based qualification is designed for businesses that do not yet hold a formal ESG rating. Under this pathway, businesses demonstrate their commitment to sustainability across all of the below five key areas through documented policies, management systems and governance practices. This includes evidence of operational controls, transparent performance data, sustainability or ESG reporting and active collaboration with sustainability-focused partners and initiatives. The evidence provided must clearly demonstrate that both the operations and the products and/or services of the business are sustainable.

Policies & plans	Policies and plans that meet recognised certification standards. Focus areas include sustainability, climate change actions, environmental management, occupational health and safety and ethical governance.
Management systems	Any certifications related to the company's environmental management practices. Examples include EMAS, ISO 14001, ISO 20121, ISO 45001 or equivalent standards.
Publicly available information	Evidence of performance disclosed through publicly available reports or official publications.
Annual reporting	Submission of an ESG or Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) report is highly valued but not mandatory.
Sustainability partnerships & community initiatives	Details of sustainability-focused partners the business collaborates with for green-related initiatives. Partners include businesses, charities, universities, research and development establishments and government bodies (excluding client companies).

Table 2: Qualification evidence guide

[1] As per Ministry of Economy & Tourism definitions, small enterprises are businesses of 50 or less employess and annual return of less than AED 50 million. Medium enterprises are businesses with 51 to 200 employees and an annual return of less than AED 250 million.

How to obtain an Expo Green Licence



Step 01

Qualification submission

Submit the online **Expo Green Licence Qualification Form**, along with supporting documentation.



Step 02

Qualification review

Once your full submission is received, it will undergo an evaluation review by the Expo City team.

The team will then provide endorsement for you to proceed with your application.

3 workings days



Step 03

Confirmation of Expo City business location

Proceed with selecting your Expo City business location and setup. The Green Innovation District offers a variety of office spaces as well as shared desk setups to cater for all business sizes.



Step 04

Application submission

Submit your Expo Green Licence application through the Expo City Dubai Authority (ECDA) Portal along with supporting documentation in line with your company type and planned business activities.

Please refer to the **'How to set up your business in Expo City Dubai'** guide for comprehensive details of the Expo City licensing process.

✓ **Once the review is complete, ECDA will issue your Initial Approval.**



Step 05

Legal documents submission

Submit all necessary legal documents for the registration of your entity. For businesses with controlled activities, you will need to acquire approvals from the relevant UAE authorities as part of your final submission. Examples of controlled activities include data-driven climate solutions, agriculture solutions and practices, sustainable food technology and processing services and clean energy generation and management.



Step 06

Lease Agreement and Expo Green Licence issuance

Once your entity is registered you will receive your Expo City lease agreement for signing.

The agreement must be signed by both Expo City and your business's authorised representative. ECDA will issue your Expo Green Licence along with your Registration Certificate and Company Card (if applicable).

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