Introduction to Estidama

Estidama, which means 'sustainability' in Arabic, is the initiative which will transform Abu Dhabi into a model of sustainable urbanization. Its aim is to create more sustainable communities, cities and global enterprises and to balance the four pillars of Estidama: environmental, economic, cultural and social.

The aspirations of Estidama are incorporated into Plan 2030 and other Urban Planning Council (UPC) policies such as the Development Code. Estidama began two years ago and is the first program of its kind that is tailored to the Middle East region. In the immediate term, Estidama is focused on the rapidly changing built environment. It is in this area that the UPC is making significant strides to influence projects under design, development or construction within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The Pearl Rating System for Estidama is one of the key tools for driving and determining sustainable development. The completion of the Pearl Rating System for Communities, Buildings and Villas marks a critical step in the progression of Estidama by providing a suite of tools that will be the basis for sustainable development from master plan to plot.

Four pillars of estidama

