

MOVING SUSTAINABLY

The Ultimate Guide to Eco-Friendly Moving

The UAE focuses on achieving sustainable development goals that would enable access to clean energy, adequate and affordable food, quality education, health care, sustainable economic growth, healthy ecosystems and increased resource efficiency, as all these issues resonate strongly in the country.

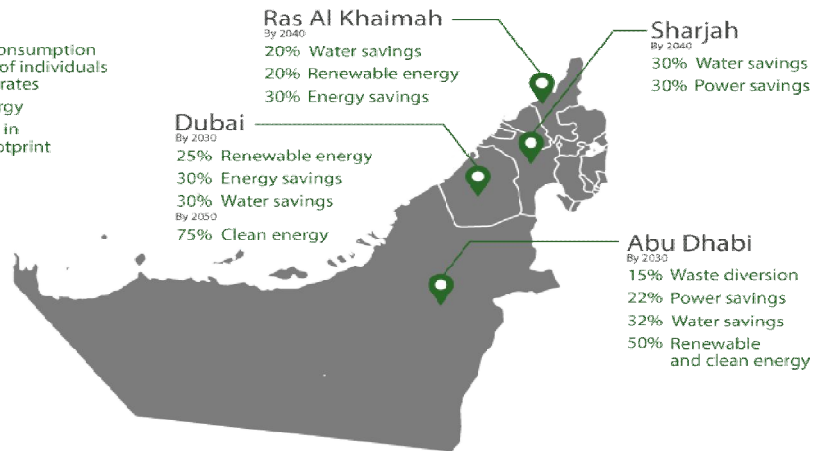
The UAE's efforts to reduce emissions include increasing reliance on clean energy, boosting energy efficiency, expanding capacity for carbon capture, use, and storage, conserving blue carbon ecosystems, promoting sustainable agriculture, and implementing environment-friendly waste management.

How can we create a sustainable future in UAE?

Rooftop solar panels, nature-inspired architecture, plenty of green spaces, car-free zones and energy-efficient appliances in residential and commercial units are a few examples of how this sustainable development in the UAE is making the city more environmentally-friendly.

UAE

By 2050
 40% Increase consumption efficiency of individuals and corporates
 50% Clean Energy
 70% Reduction in carbon footprint



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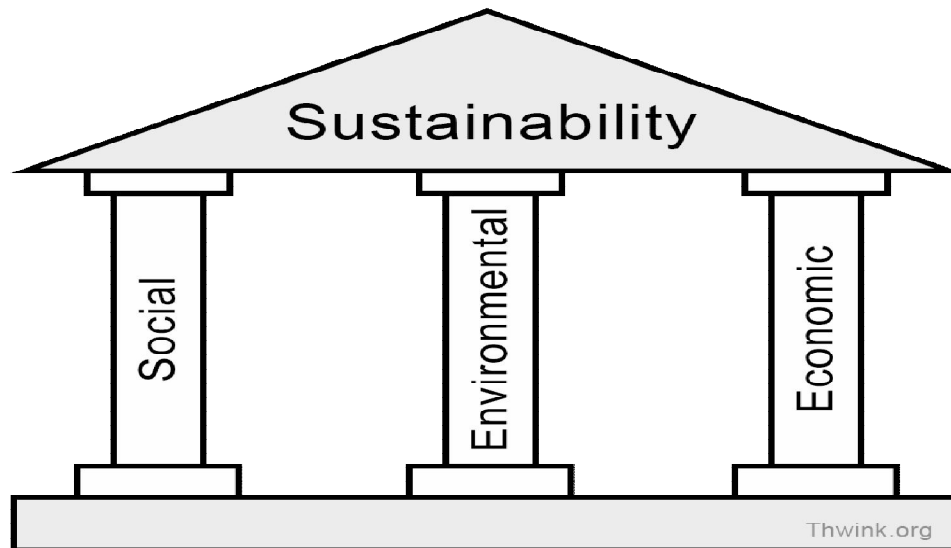


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In order to find solutions to ongoing sustainability issues, it is imperative that we consider all three pillars.



- **Environmental sustainability** is perhaps the most obvious of the three pillars, as it symbolizes the importance of things like natural resources and biodiversity to support life on Earth.
- **Social sustainability** places importance on social structures, well-being, and harmony; all factors that poverty, wars, and injustices can affect.
- **Economic sustainability** describes the ability of an economy to grow. This is especially important in today's societies, at a time when many sustainable initiatives require financing and a strong economic rationale.

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To be able to consider itself as “environmentally sustainable”, an international moving company has to live up to certain values and commitments, wherever it may be based or whatever its business set-up, size or core activity. Together with the FIDI sustainability focus group, we developed the following definition of an environmentally sustainable mover:

"As environmentally sustainable movers we recognise the impact of our activities on our planet, its people and the environment. That is why we choose to make environmental sustainability an integral part of our company's DNA. This means we accept and embrace the principles of environmentally sustainable moving as outlined in the FIDI guidelines. We dare to show leadership by pioneering innovative solutions and business models and seek to enhance our impact through collaboration with our partners, clients and suppliers. Creating an environmentally sustainable business is not about 'reaching a destination'. Rather it is a process of continuing progress where we set goals, act accordingly and constantly keep improving ourselves. "

The moving industry is one of the most significant contributors to carbon emissions and environmental pollution. However, there are several ways in which the industry can become more sustainable.

[According to a report by FIDI Global Alliance, international moving companies can take several steps to become more environmentally sustainable, such as reducing transportation emissions, minimizing landfill waste, and using eco-friendly cleaning supplies¹.](#)

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Sustainability Pain Points in the Moving Industry

Historically, there are a number of ways the moving industry has negatively impacted the environment.

Transportation emissions

One of the biggest downsides to moving is that it's virtually impossible to do so without creating carbon emissions, sometimes in significant amounts. Transportation contributes to harmful emissions, noise, and climate change. About 15% of the total greenhouse gases and 22% of the CO2 emissions are attributed to transportation.

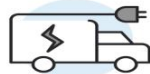
The UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative is a national drive to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, making the Emirates the first Middle East and North Africa (MENA) nation to do so.

Transportation accounts for around 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions in industrialized countries.

Every gallon of gas burned by a vehicle is responsible for about **24 pounds** of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.



You can reduce your carbon footprint by:



Using an electric vehicle.



Using a truck large enough to move everything in one trip.



Shipping your belongings.

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When moving, it's nearly impossible to eliminate carbon emissions. You have to transport your belongings, and carbon-free transportation. Some ways to help reduce the carbon emissions from moving transportation include:

- Using an electric vehicle to move your belongings.
- Using a truck large enough to [move everything in one trip](#).

Choosing our sustainable moving services means choosing a service that's designed with the environment in mind. Here's how we make your move greener:

Paper Reduction:

We use blankets instead of paper for packing, significantly reducing paper waste.

Reusable Crates:

Our plastic crates can be used multiple times, reducing the need for single-use packing materials.

Consolidation and Co-loading:

When you opt for a green move, we consolidate and co-load consignments to minimize trips, reducing carbon emissions.

Digital Management:

We use digital software to manage moves, reducing the need for paper files.

Sustainable Supply Chain:

We educate and encourage our suppliers to adopt green practices, extending our commitment to sustainability throughout our supply chain.

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Retreaded Tires:

Tires are re-treaded to extend the life of the tires.

Energy-Saving LEDs:

We're switching to energy-saving LED lights in our offices and warehouses.

Responsible Disposal:

We ensure that any waste generated during your move is disposed of responsibly.

Landfill waste

Moving typically creates a lot of waste. From moving boxes to packing materials to discarded belongings — many items that can be reused, donated, sold, or recycled end up in the trash during the average move.

To thrive in today's world and to keep thriving in the future we have no choice but to accept and embrace change. We will need to make sustainability a core company value and make it an integral part of our corporate strategy, company culture and daily operations.

Non-green cleaning supplies

With the average move comes a lot of cleaning. Unfortunately, many popular cleaning products are harmful to the environment, either because they use harsh chemicals that can harm the Earth, or because their packaging uses unsustainable single-use plastics.

Further down, we'll talk about some alternatives, from green cleaning supply companies to homemade, DIY solutions.

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Moving Sustainably: 8 Steps for an Eco-Friendly Move

From reducing your move's carbon footprint to eliminating needless waste, follow these 8 steps for a more sustainable way to move.

Step 1: Plan ahead

Moving sustainably is, unfortunately, not the status quo. That means that making your move as eco-friendly as possible means planning even further ahead than you would for a typical move. Allow yourself extra time to look for eco-friendly moving companies, source sustainable packing materials recycling opportunities, and more.

Step 2: Look for eco-friendly movers or transportation

Embrace opportunities to create more sustainable practices within the industry. Whether by using more fuel-efficient moving trucks (or even electric vehicles or biodiesel trucks), launching tree-planting initiatives to offset their emissions, or other green practices.

When looking for a green moving company, beware of marketing that's full of eco-friendly buzzwords. Instead, ask these questions to assess moving companies:

- Do you have any references that can speak to your sustainable practices?
- Do you use reusable moving boxes and supplies?
- Do you use biodegradable packing materials?

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- How do you ensure you can complete a move in just one trip?
- What other practices make your company more sustainable than others?

If you're planning a move without the help of professional movers, you can also find ways to make transporting your belongings more green. Rather than taking multiple trips in your own car, rent a truck so you can move everything in one trip (even if the truck is less fuel-efficient, this will typically be the greener option).

Step 3: Sell or donate unwanted belongings

Rather than throwing away items you don't want to bring with you when you move, spend the extra time and effort to sell or donate them. This helps reduce landfill waste created by the moving industry.

Step 4: Research recycling options

For unwanted items that can't be sold or donated, see if recycling is an option. Many organizations can help you recycle old electronics, worn-out clothing, furniture, and other unexpected items.

Step 5: Use eco-friendly packing materials and strategies

One of the most harmful aspects of a move is packing materials, the most common of which contribute to deforestation and single-use plastics. By

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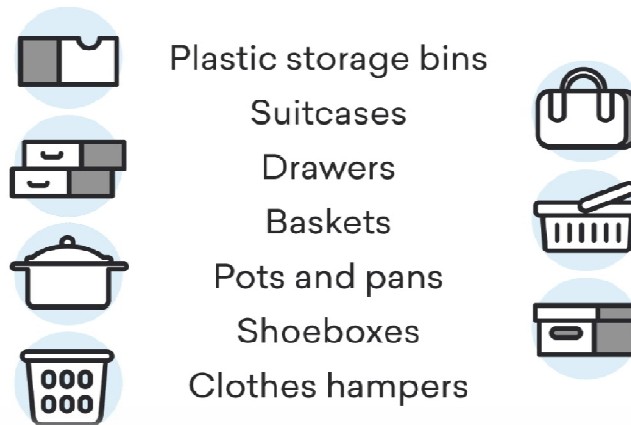
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seeking out eco-friendly packing materials and using packing strategies that minimize environmental harm, you can make your move more eco-friendly.

- Look for bins that can be used for a move, and then returned for more households to use.
- Reuse moving boxes from a previous move.
- Look for biodegradable packing supplies (like [packing peanuts made from cornstarch](#), rather than styrofoam).
- Use clothes, sheets, linens, pillows, and blankets as cushioning for fragile items, rather than plastic bubble wrap. Even recycled newspapers or magazines can be a more environmentally friendly choice than plastic products.
- Pack inside storage bins, baskets, drawers, suitcases, and other household items so you can use fewer cardboard boxes (and create less waste) during your move.

Packing Alternatives to Carboard Boxes



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Step 6: Pack the kitchen last

Packing the kitchen even just a few days before you move can mean creating unnecessary waste from takeout, paper plates and cups, and plastic cutlery. Try not to pack the kitchen until the last minute, so you can still use your own belongings for cooking and eating.

As you pack your kitchen, be mindful of the food waste you're creating. Plan ahead for your move by meal planning and shopping deliberately so you won't end up with a lot of perishable food that needs to be thrown out. See if any organization operates in your community — they'll match you with a local mover who will pick up and transport non-perishable food items to a local food pantry.

Step 7: Clean with green products

When you move out of your old home, you'll need to clean it thoroughly — but instead of chemical-filled cleaning products in single-use plastic containers, consider sustainable alternatives. Green cleaning supplies are a booming business, so there are options if you'd like to buy some environmentally friendly cleaners. Or, you can [homemade cleaners](#) using common household goods.

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Step 8: Store belongings with a neighbor

If you need storage while relocating, consider the most eco-friendly self storage there is: Free space in a neighbor's home. [Connect with a neighbor in your community](#) to store your belongings safely and affordably.

After Your Move: Making Your New Home Green

It's one thing to move sustainably. But as you're [unpacking and settling into your new home](#), you can use the change to embrace some eco-friendly new habits. Here's how to make your new home green as you arrive, unpack, and make yourself at home.

Buy used furniture and goods

Rather than buying new, look for second-hand furniture and home goods that you can reuse in your new home.

Embrace a more minimalist lifestyle

Moving is also a [great time to declutter](#) and downsize. Once you've pared down your belongings, try not to buy a lot of new ones for your new home. Living a minimalist lifestyle means less waste and consumerism, which can be better for the planet.

Use eco-friendly decor

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There are many ways to be more green when decorating a new home. Using eco-friendly paints is a great starting point. Avoid decor made of plastic or other unsustainable materials. Invest in locally made furniture, rather than mass-produced pieces from big-box stores.

Invest in energy-efficient appliances

If your appliances are old, it might be time to upgrade. Many modern appliances are far more energy-efficient than their older counterparts. Not only are they more eco-friendly, but they could save you money on energy bills in the long term.

While thinking about energy efficiency in your home, don't limit yourself to just appliances. Consider installing solar panels to generate your own energy. Invest in rechargeable batteries for small appliances and electronics. And make sure all the lights in your new home use energy-efficient LED bulbs.

Go paperless

When [changing your address](#) to your new home, take the extra time to sign up for paperless billing and communications from any entities that regularly send you mail.

Embrace eco-friendly new habits

A move is a big change. Use this time to embrace some other changes that will make your home and habits more sustainable. For example, make sure you

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understand how to take advantage of recycling programs in your new community. Conserve water with drought-resistant landscaping. Plant a garden and grow some produce at home.

Action Points (Where we can make positive changes to our operations)

- + Organise virtual pre-move surveys. Virtual surveys save time and money and are better.
- + Digitalise your administration. Implement paperless procedures wherever possible.
- + Give used material a second life. Help your customers by sending their used furniture to refurbishment facilities or donating it to non-profits.
- + Make recycling a part of your business model and, if possible, establish your own recycling center. Implement waste segregation practices to reduce, reuse and recycle waste produced by your office and activities.
- + Allow your customers to make use of your recycling capabilities and let them recycle what can no longer be used. Provide them with connections to recycling and donation centers.
- + Reduce packaging through optimization of materials usage, reuse and waste prevention.
- + Use sustainable and local materials that are 100% recyclable material as much as possible.

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- ✚ Encourage your customers to accept groupage and limit air shipments to the bare necessities.
- ✚ Reducing your energy consumption wherever possible should always be your first step.
- ✚ Start by switching to a sustainable energy supplier.
- ✚ Use sustainable materials for the construction and renovation of offices and warehouses and plan with sustainability in mind.

Benefits of Sustainable Moving

By choosing our sustainable moving services, you are helping to conserve natural resources, reduce waste, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. But it's not just the environment that benefits – going green can save you money too! Our efficient practices often translate into cost savings for our clients.

Our Commitment

Thinking Sustainable is not just a service – it's a principle that guides our operations. We're committed to continuously improving our practices to ensure that we are as green as we can be. We're proud to offer a service that makes moving easier on you and the environment.

Ready to make your move greener? Contact us today for a free quote on our sustainable moving services.

Reference : www.fidi.org

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