Smart grid kuwait city

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XZERO is a planned sustainable community, providing a net zero carbon lifestyle for 100,000 residents, in balance with nature. The city will provide food & energy security whilst promoting a green circular economy in an eco-friendly live, work & visit destination.

The 1,600 hectare development is planned for the southern region of Kuwait to provide 30,000 residential units, as well as 30,000 green jobs, which will be created in various hubs such as medical, tourism, technology, educational, retail & entertainment.

The masterplan was designed using passive design strategies, as well as green & blue infrastructure, to create a sustainable development which requires the least financial investment whilst providing the highest environmental gains. Active strategies & state-of-the-art technologies are integrated into the city to provide the highest standards of living through its smart city grid. The sustainability elements within the city are also highlighted as features within the landscape to serve as an educational tool.

CEO of URB, Baharash Bagherian, who has masterminded designs of various sustainable cities including recently launched projects such as AlNama, Nexgen, The Sustainable City in Yiti, The Sustainable City Yas Island and many more yet to be revealed, explains the significance of XZERO as a new benchmark for future cities.

"The creation of sustainable cities that follow the highest standards of living with lowest impact on the environment is no longer a choice, it has become a necessity.

The city is also designed and optimized in planning to be the most walkable city on earth. Primary & secondary walking networks are well shaded and connected with other modes of green transport such as cycling & electric buggies to offer residents the safest, most convenient & enjoyable travel to every aspect of the city. The city provides 35km of dedicated running and cycling tracks as well as a 9km of equestrian track which connects to the equestrian center.

The density was optimized to maximize the green space ratio, mitigating effects of rising temperatures and urban heat islands, thus creating a "cooler" environment. The mix use areas are strategically located in the heart of the project along with the highest density of residential units, to reduce the walking distances for most of the city dwellers.

Ultimately the city will provide the highest quality of life whilst protecting the environment for future generations. It will become a new benchmark for future cities to be planned in tune with nature, whilst promoting a greener circular economy.

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The project is planned to follow the highest sustainability standards by providing multifunctional holistic solutions to address all the three key pillars of sustainability; social, economic and environmental. The aim is to create a zero carbon smart city that takes a balanced approach between these three pillars.

A sustainability brief was created for the project with targets and initiatives, which was divided into categories to create a unique sustainability DNA. Some of these categories included water, energy, food, waste, mobility, building materials, health & wellbeing, pollution, ecology, green & blue infrastructure etc.. The integration of all these sustainability elements into the design at the early stages helped to achieve the highest level of social, environmental and economic sustainability.

Key planning principles at the early stages was one of the key drivers of creating XZERO. Basic design decisions such as orientation, density and form provided the biggest environmental gains, yet these required the least financial investment. Thus at the early stages of the project we were able to reduce a large amount of energy demand with little cost.

The project was further optimised using various tools, methods and analysis such as energy modelling, microclimate analysis, solar radiation analysis, daylight simulations/ analysis and glare control, water efficiency, water recycling, life cycle costing analysis, waste management and waste recycling analysis, sustainable landscaping and urban drainage analysis.

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Web: https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/
Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com
WhatsApp: 8613816583346