

# How to Set Up a Business in the Masdar Free Zone

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

A conceptual image featuring a hand pointing upwards, with several glowing blue arrows of varying sizes pointing in the same direction. The background is dark blue with abstract geometric shapes and bokeh light effects.

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# 01

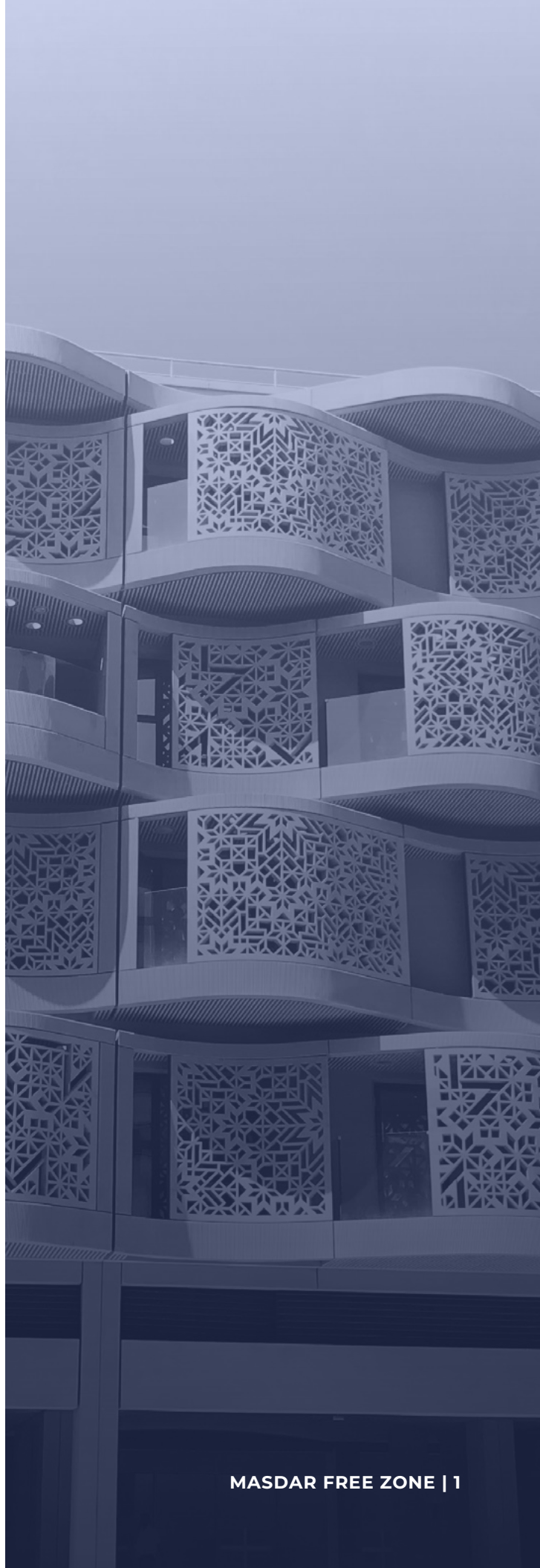
## INTRODUCTION

Starting a business in the UAE is a smart move for entrepreneurs due to its favorable business environment. The UAE offers low taxes, a strong economy, a welcoming expatriate community, and a strategic location between the East and West.

Setting up your business in a UAE-free zone, like Masdar City Free Zone, enhances these benefits with additional incentives and support for tech and sustainability-focused businesses.

Masdar City Free Zone in Abu Dhabi combines sustainability with technology. It aims to be one of the most sustainable cities globally, hosting top companies, research institutions, and innovative startups.

The free zone offers benefits like 100% foreign ownership, tax exemptions, and a thriving community of over 1,000 companies.



# 02

## OVERVIEW OF MASDAR CITY

Masdar City is a sustainable urban community and a global hub for business and technology. It hosts major organizations like Siemens Energy, Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, and the International Renewable Energy Agency.

The city reflects the UAE's dedication to sustainability and innovation, providing a high-tech, eco-friendly space for businesses to grow.

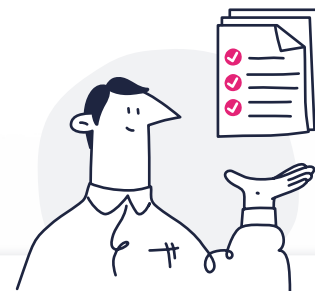
Masdar City also supports tech startups through The Catalyst, the region's only venture investor focused on cleantech. This initiative helps the UAE achieve its net-zero emissions goal by promoting advanced, eco-friendly business practices. The city offers a variety of facilities, including offices, homes, restaurants, cafes, and shops.



For more detailed information, visit the official [Masdar City Free Zone website](#)



## MASDAR FREE ZONE BUSINESS SETUP: STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE



1

### Step 1: Choose Your Business Activity

The first step in starting a business in the UAE is choosing your business activity. Masdar City Free Zone supports a wide range of technology and sustainability-related businesses.

Consulting with experts like Creative Zone can help you select the most appropriate activity for your company and secure the necessary license.

2

### Step 2: Prepare a Company Name

When naming your business, it's crucial to follow UAE naming conventions. Your company name should reflect your activities and be distinctive. It must avoid any offensive or blasphemous words and should not be identical to any existing company names in the UAE.

3

### Step 3: Initial Application

Once you've decided on your business activities and company name, you can proceed with the initial application. This involves submitting basic details and paying a registration fee.

After your name and application are approved by the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, you can move forward with the next steps.

4

#### **Step 4: Arrange the Required Documents**

At this stage, professionals from Creative Zone will assist you in compiling and acquiring all necessary documents. These documents typically include your visa, business plan, and passport copies.

5

#### **Step 5: Get Your Masdar City Free Zone License**

The Creative Zone team will submit your application, liaising with relevant authorities and government bodies as needed. You will need to sign the legal documentation and finalize the lease process and payments. This process usually takes a few business days.

# 04

## BENEFITS OF SETTING UP A BUSINESS IN THE MASDAR FREE ZONE

Businesses in the Masdar Free Zone enjoy several key benefits:

- ✓ **100% Foreign Ownership:**  
Full foreign ownership is permitted, eliminating the need for a local partner or sponsor.
- ✓ **100% Tax Exemption:**  
Companies benefit from full personal and corporate tax exemptions for qualifying activities.
- ✓ **0% Import Tariffs:**  
No customs or import duty is levied on goods within Masdar City.
- ✓ **Financial Repatriation:**  
Business owners can repatriate all capital and profits without restrictions.
- ✓ **Supportive Ecosystem:**  
Businesses have access to R&D partnerships, potential investors, and a community of like-minded enterprises.



# 05

## TYPES OF LICENSES AVAILABLE IN THE MASDAR FREE ZONE

Businesses in the Masdar Free Zone can operate under various structures and activities, including:

- ▶ Renewable Energy
- ▶ Clean Technology
- ▶ Marketing and Events
- ▶ Human Resources
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Healthcare Services
- ▶ Service Providers
- ▶ Property Development Services
- ▶ Regional HQ, Trading and Holding Companies
- ▶ Business or Data Centres
- ▶ Oil and Gas Services
- ▶ Retail, Food, and Beverage



# 06

## REFERENCE WEBSITES AND SUPPORTING CASE STUDIES

To support your business setup process and gain more insights, refer to the following official government websites and case studies:

- 1 Masdar City Free Zone: [Masdar City](#)
- 2 Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development: [ADDED](#)
- 3 Creative Zone: [Creative Zone](#)
- 4 UAE Government Portal: [UAE Government](#)



# 07

## BUILD YOUR FUTURE IN THE MASDAR FREE ZONE

Setting up a business in the Masdar Free Zone lets you join a forward-thinking, sustainable community. The process is simple but requires careful planning and following the rules.

By following the steps and using available resources, you can build a successful business in this innovative city. With its many benefits, supportive environment, and strategic location, Masdar City Free Zone is perfect for entrepreneurs in technology and sustainability.





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