



## The future for Dubai?

Read the following extract and tick the outcome that you think is most likely:

Dubai is greatly dependent on the availability of cheap energy, and its per capita consumption of energy is amongst the highest in the world. Cheaply available oil is used to desalinate the water that irrigates the lush tropical landscapes implanted in its desert, and that supports the water-spending habits of its leisure tourism. Cheaply available oil is used to air-condition its massive interior spaces during the gruelling hot summer months. Cheaply available oil also is used to run motor vehicles in a city designed exclusively for automobiles (which increasingly are stuck in traffic) and not for pedestrians. As global warming is becoming a more serious and real threat to the livelihood of the planet, there is a rising awareness that such a lifestyle that is dependent on an intensive consumption of fossil fuels is not sustainable in the long run. The city's location requires an almost total dependency on medium-haul air travel to survive, most visitors coming from Europe and India. The carbon consequences over time are unimaginable. Dubai is flying in the face of current sustainability trends.

**Twenty years from now, Dubai could be the world's premier city: wealthy, powerful, dynamic and amazing.**

**It could also be an economically-shattered wasteland of abandoned skyscrapers and half-completed construction projects.**

***Adapted from the following sources:***

*Mean Green Cougar Red blog*

<http://indotav.blogspot.com/2007/03/is-dubais-development-model.html>

*World Architecture News.com*

[http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload\\_id=424](http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=424)