



Researchers are exploring whether constructing a mountain will increase rainfall in cities like Dubai, as no location has yet been set

UAE plans manmade mountain to increase rainfall



Amy Frearson | 5 May 2016

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The United Arab Emirates is considering proposals for an artificial mountain that could help increase the country's rainfall.



A team at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in the US are understood to have received a \$400,000 grant towards a detailed study exploring whether it would work.

"What we are looking at is basically evaluating the effects on weather through the type of mountain, how high it should be and how the slopes should be," explained NCAR lead researcher Roelof Brientjes, speaking to Dubai news site [Arabian Business](#).

"We will have a report of the first phase this summer as an initial step."

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Mountains are a major factor in rainfall as they force warm, moist air to rise and cool, and thus create clouds.

Increasing the number of clouds provides more options for seeding – a process where chemicals such as silver iodide or potassium iodide are added to clouds in the form of ice crystals, boosting rainfall.

No location has yet been set for the mountain, as the NCAR team is exploring various options.

"Building a mountain is not a simple thing," Brientjes told the website. "We are still busy finalising assimilation, so we are doing a spread of all kinds of heights, widths and locations."





The UAE country is no stranger to ambitious construction projects. It is currently home to the world's tallest building, the SOM-designed Burj Khalifa.

There is also no indication yet as to how much it would cost, but Bruintjes admits the project will only go ahead if they can develop a proposal that isn't too expensive for the government.

"This gives them an idea of what kind of alternatives there are for the long-term future," he said. "If it goes through, the second phase would be to go to an engineering company and decide whether it is possible or not."

The UAE government spent a reported \$558,000 (£400,000) on cloud seeding last year. The

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On average, there are only five days of rainfall a year in the country, where temperatures typically rise to 45 degrees Celsius in summer.

But the Arab country is no stranger to ambitious construction projects. It is currently home to the world's tallest building, the SOM-designed Burj Khalifa, and an artificial island shaped like a palm tree.

Other major projects in the works include a colossal observation tower, an underwater hotel and a revolving skyscraper powered by wind turbines.

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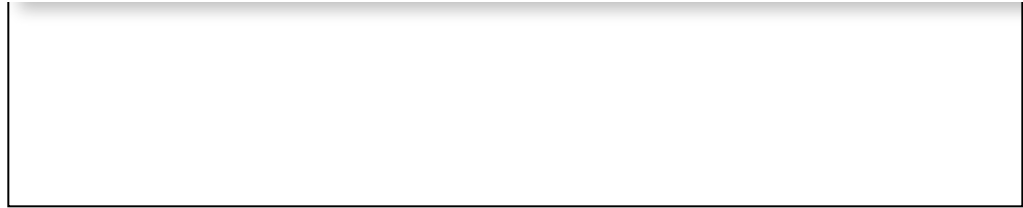
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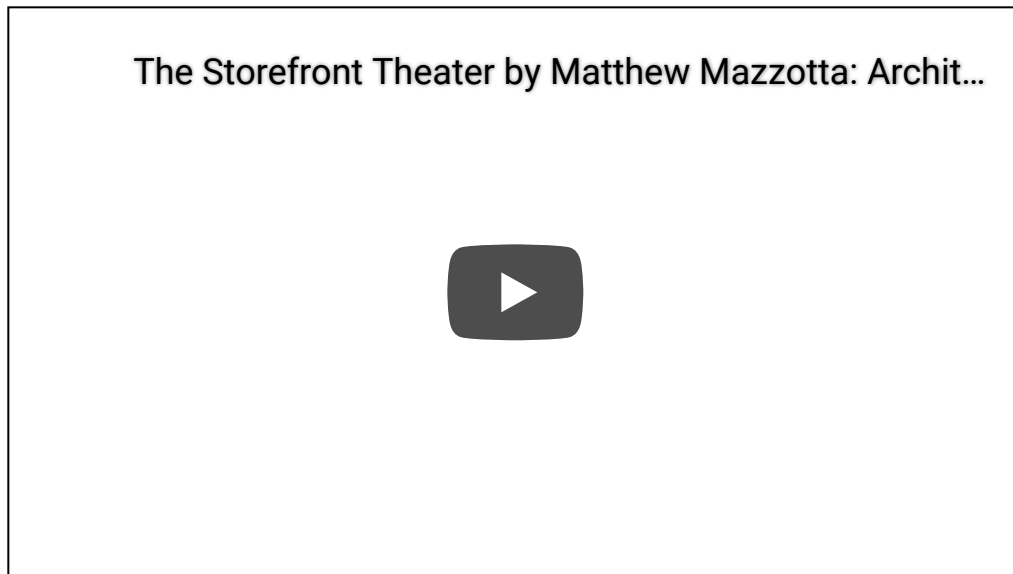


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Thomas Edward Miller • 3 years ago • edited

Instead of building a mountain just use solar air heaters to make the air rise - see <http://airartist.blogspot.c...>

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surajkumar b bandi • 3 years ago • edited

You can have alternative ideas of making rain. The info is available on rainisuniversal.wordpress.com.

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Andrew • 4 years ago • edited

Why is there no discussion on what kind of climate change affect this will have globally? Clearly this part of the world shouldn't have rainfall, otherwise it would do so already - we are talking a very fine balance.

Surely with the sea levels set to rise in the next few years and an average elevation of about 4m this excess rainfall will flood cities like Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Are their carbon footprints not big enough that they need to destroy the planet further? Hopefully the demand for fossil fuels will cease soon enough to stop such lunacy, or at least the prices will drop enough to bankrupt them.

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Fidenzio Salvatori → Andrew • 3 years ago • edited

Haven't they figured out how to extract water from oil yet? Perhaps less far-fetched! If they could round up all the carbon that has been produced by their petroleum industry...they surely would be able to build mountain chains let alone a single mountain!!

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She Grabs the Curtain → Fidenzio Salvatori
• 3 years ago • edited

Extracting water from oil is not sustainable, since oil is fossil, and the water in oil is too. The UAE is looking for a constant and eternal source of water. I don't understand why they don't look at finding a cheap way to convert sea water into drinking water, since the UAE is not landlocked.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

else downwind in need.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



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JamesW → Guest • 4 years ago • edited

Don't you think it will work?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Roberto • 4 years ago • edited

Desalination plants not doing it, apparently.

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Lee • 4 years ago • edited

If Mohammed will not go to the mountain, the mountain must come to Mohammed.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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