

NEOM — Saudi Arabia's \$500-Billion Megacity Experiment and Its Costly Reset

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Saudi Arabia

Quality score: 10/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Saudi Arabia's flagship linear megacity, budgeted at \$500bn, has built roughly 1.4% of its planned 170km structure and is being scaled back after an internal review put full completion cost at \$8.8 trillion.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	0/3
Scalability	0/3
Sustainability / continuity	0/3
Innovation	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	0/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-18

[NEOM Company \(Public Investment Fund\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-18

[Saudi Arabia 'scales back plans' for desert megacity](#) — [Yahoo News](#) — accessed 2026-08-18

[NEOM in 2026: What Is Actually Being Built](#) — [House of Saud](#) — accessed 2026-08-18

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