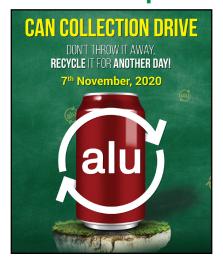
# **EEG EDU NEWS**

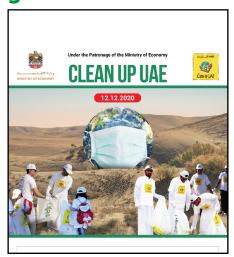
Together for a Better Environment®





# **Upcoming Events**





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# **Reach Out to EEG for More Details**



### **BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES:**

Every SATURDAY, 9:00AM to 4:00PM Villa No. JMR. 68, Jumeirah 1, Between Dubai Zoo & Beach Centre. For more info, call EEG at 04 344 8622, or

email eeg@emirates.net.ae - www.eeg-uae.org





## EDITORIAL TEAM:

Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Dinah Gengmei, Hiba Ahmed, Marwa Mehanna, Priyanka Menon Rao, Carlo Cuarto, Jipson Joy,

**DESIGNED BY**: Shabbir Hussain Arif



# Habiba Al Mar'ashi

"Together for a better environment" is a quote that I like to conclude my articles and speeches with, as it represents the perfect expression of the importance and strength of unity when it comes to creating a better understanding and a greater action-oriented awareness to mitigate environmental burdens and combat climate change.

The month of September marked the pearl jubilee for Emirates Environmental Group, three decades in which EEG has succeeded in playing an influential role in the development and delivery of programmes and campaigns enabling the local and regional communities to participate in activities that lead to the resolution of environmental challenges. We continue with the same determination and unity to arm communities with cross-border knowledge and contribute positively to the advancement of sustainable development in the UAE for many generations to come.

Our Educational Programmes provide national and international students with a platform where they are empowered and motivated to explore environmental and societal issues, weigh various sides of an issue through critical-thinking, and engage in the problem solving process to make future informed and responsible decisions. We are pleased to announce that the registrations are now open for the  $20^{\rm th}$  cycle of our much-awaited educational programmes, and we urge all the academic institutions to join in.

EEG hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> and final panel discussion for the year under the title "UAE A Biodiversity Haven". Biodiversity loss is one of the world's most pressing crises, and solutions require the involvement of various groups from the local governments and the civil society to provide different viewpoints on the status of conservation. It is important to monitor and measure the impacts of human activities, share innovative solutions and best practices to maintain the rich biological diversity in the UAE that forms one of our national treasures. The seminar witnessed a strong presence from inside and outside the country, where our esteemed panelists from Al-Ain Zoo, the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve and Arbor School - Dubai who shared their valued efforts in the subject.

I had the pleasure of attending a discussion group meeting by GISD Alliance on Women's Livelihood Bond (WLB). Such fruitful discussions aid the value and voices of women in the global market. GISD Alliance continues to shed light on these topics to navigate and implement changes that builds into the success of dealing with today's volatile and complex global business landscape.

EEG has been a part of several engagements related to circular economy in the month of September. Sessions included product life-time extension to advance circular economy, and the circular affordable housing by WCEF in which disaster re-construction case studies were shared from different regions to manifest the unique opportunities that unlocks greener, and stronger economies.

To maintain steady foot steps towards achieving UN Agenda 2030, EEG values engagements and dialogues that articulate actions to navigate the delivery of the 17 UN SDGs throughout the current uncertainties. EEG also participated in a webinar facilitated by the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) and UNDP Regional Hub in Amman.

As a board member and Co-Founder of Emirates Green Building Council, I was delighted to participate in the launch webinar for the 2020 UAE Green Buildings Market Brief. The publication launch depicted an overview of the green building market in the UAE and more.

Our waste management projects and campaigns continue to uplift the environmental and social cohesion by closely engaging the community in the process of reducing the waste to landfills cycle. We once again invite all participants to take part in the 24<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Can Collection Drive, and the newly launched "Scrap Metal Recycling" Project. The 19<sup>th</sup> cycle of our famous Clean-Up UAE is also scheduled to take place in **12.12.2020**, where volunteers from all sectors of the society will join forces to clean diverse areas to stir the wheel of environmental behavioural change.

Lastly, I am glad to share EEG's partnership with Arabia CSR Network for the 13<sup>th</sup> cycle of Arabia CSR Awards gala event. "The Green Oscars of the Middle East" is an annual celebration that recognises and honours organisations in the Arab Region that demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment to corporate social responsibility and sustainability. The awards are set to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> October, under the kind patronage of H.E Eng. Sheikh Salem bin Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi Chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Department of Civil Aviation and member of the Executive Council - Government of Ras Al-Khaimah. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter that delivers an array of our engagements, along with some exciting and ongoing campaigns and projects which I encourage you to take part in.

Let us maintain a positive outlook while staying united to build resilience and fight this Pandemic.



# **Engaging with UNEP**

The Emirates Environmental Group engaged in extensive deliberations with UNEP in the month of September.

1). EEG attended the first meeting of the Working Group "Using Product Lifetime Extension to Advance Circular Economy" via webinar on 9th September. It was organised by the UN Environment Programme and the Akatu Institute, this Working Group was established under the One Planet Network Consumer Information Programme.

The Working Group aims to build a critical mass of engagement within and across different sectors (private, public and civil society) to raise awareness and engage consumers on product lifetime extension. The objective of this first meeting was to present the concept note, discuss a work plan as well as agree on the scope of outputs.

A highlight was a focus on the flagship report titled, "The Long View: Exploring Product Lifetime Extension" that provides recommendations on the opportunities available to various stakeholders of developed and developing economies, to fight against planned obsolescence and address product lifetime extension. An interesting concept that was highlighted during the meeting was that of an optimal replacement moment, which is defined as the point in time where the environmental impacts that arise from using a product equal the embedded impacts of a (more energy efficient) replacement product. EEG is excited to be a part of this Working Group and looks forward to exploring more resources on product lifetime extension and circular economy.

 2). EEG also attended on 10<sup>th</sup> September, the virtual CPR Subcommittee meeting.

September The main focus of this meeting was to discuss and to finalise the co-facilitators document - Converging elements of consensus - Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

A number of Member States and stakeholders provided their recommendations on the body of the text as well as overall concepts.

Some rationales shared by the Secretariat was that Member States requested for a more streamlined and focused theme, and also

recommended that OECPR-5 be organised along with UNEA-5 to save time and travelling money. It was pointed out that the term "Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives" (OECPR) does not offer sufficient insight into the actual role and function of the meeting of the OECPR mandated in Governing Council decision 27/2.

Finally it was mentioned that some delegations to UNEA and the OECPR are limited in size and capacity.

This has potential to side line some countries and undermine the spirit of universality and joint ownership of UNEA outcomes.

10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

th 3). EEG attended a highly comprehensive capacity building event based on the theme-Effectively engage with the United Nations Environment Assembly, understand Multilateral

Environment Agreements, and learn to identify ways to contribute to the delivery of the United Nations Environment Programme's Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work.

It was organised by the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for all Major Groups and stakeholders. EEG has been working with a number of UN organisations for over two decades now and this event was a wonderful opportunity to 're-train' and gear up for UNEA-5.

Highlights of the meeting:

- 1. Understanding UNEA and UNEP, including the CPR
- 2. UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and Programme of Work (PoW)
- 3. The role of stakeholders in UNEP and UNEA
- Attending UNEP and UNEA, and engaging effectively with Member States
- 5. Drafting a UN resolution
- 6. Multi-stakeholder Partnerships to deliver the UNEP MTS and PoW

4). EEG attended the 151st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP via webinar. The meeting was kickstarted by Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen who was of the opinion that as we reboot the global economy, a sustainable pathway is the only road ahead. Main focus areas of the meeting:

- Report by the Executive Director
- Progress update on the consultation process under UNGA resolution 73/333
- Progress update on the work of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics

The Secretariat spoke examined the COVID-19 response building block strategy, backed by extensive communication, and involving stakeholders, to develop a roadmap on recovery.

Other achievements that were highlighted:

- International Day for Biological Diversity: Launch of the report 'The State of the World's Forests 2020: Forests, Biodiversity and People
- World Environment Day 2020 brought into sharp focus the importance of fundamentally shifting humanity's relationship with nature to preserve our societies and prevent future pandemics
- In June 2020, UNEP, UN-HABITAT and UNON officially launched the International Gender Champions (IGC) hub in Nairobi.

This extensive meeting was attended by over 300 Member States and stakeholders. EEG would like to congratulate UNEP on this wonderful event and its organisation, especially with features such as live translations on the floor.



# **Engaging with GISD**

September

1). EEG Chairperson and Member of the GISD Alliance attended on 10th September, the discussion group meeting that featured the presentation of Women's Livelihood Bond (WLB) by the Managing Director and Director of Investments for Singapore-based Impact Investment Exchange (IIX).

Women are the backbone of communities' health and the vision of IIX serves to transform the financial system so that women, the environment and underserved communities are given a value and a voice in the global market.

It aids in advancing UN SDGs by expediting global climate action, redefining the narrative to position women as solutions and building resilient communities.

WLB is an award-winning series that delivers stable returns and sustainable impact to investors. Further to the history made in 2017 by launching the US\$8.5 million Women's Livelihoods Bond 1 (WLB 1) and becoming the world's first gender-lens, impact investing security listed on a stock exchange, in Q1 2020 IIX issued the US\$ 12 million WLB 2.

With women in the centre of COVID-19 resilience, the WLB 3 is on an ambitious target of US\$ 30 million to impact 500,000 women in South and Southeast Asia in Q4 2020.

WLB 3 will invest in 50% microfinance and the rest in sectors including sustainable agriculture, small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) lending, clean energy, skills development, and sustainable apparel.

September

2). GISD held the virtual meeting for its Strategy Group, led by the Director of Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UNDESA. The co-chairs of working group 1 provided updates on the status of their deliverables and discussed the next steps on the recently launched report of GISD-

'Renewed, Recharged and Reinforced - Urgent Action to Harmonise and Scale Sustainable Finance'. The group also discussed the objectives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the GISD Alliance that includes ensuring commitment of the members for the next 2 years, engaging with member states on the implementation and sharing the impact of GISD through media outreach. UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) also presented its work on impact analysis and management, specifically on how Positive Impact Initiative and Principles for Responsible Banking can support the work of the Alliance.

# Climate Action for Human Security

September Emirates Environmental Group participated in a webinar that took place on  $2^{nd}$  September. The Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) and UNDP Regional Hub in

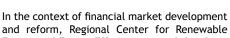
Amman, through its regional project "SDG-Climate Facility: Climate Action for Human Security" organised a webinar to discuss the role of climate finance in facilitating transformative climate action and to meet the SDGs in the Arab Region.

The discussion dealt with Renewable Energy (RE) systems that entail benefits from SDG 7 and 13, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Climate action still falls far short of what is needed in regards to climate financing and renewable energy globally and in the Arab Region. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2018) estimates that \$1.6 trillion to \$3.8 trillion are needed annually between 2016 and 2050 in order to achieve the transition to a lowemission world.

While climate finance in the Arab Region is lagging behind, there has been some notable successes that were discussed during the webinar. One of which is the Aero Fresh Farms in the UAE that managed to

secure venture capital financing to increase its business for food security issues in the country. Public-Private Partnerships are needed to guarantee that new financing models are available in crisis and post-crisis environments.

Visit the link for more details



Energy and Energy Efficiency, stated that Renewable Energy (RE) can be financed using a variety of instruments, from grants to concessional debt and equity to purely commercial debt and equity.

The discussion recommended that the Union of Arab Banks transition to Green banking, to work together to build a framework for the Arab financial sector to support sustainable development projects.

The session concluded by stressing that there is a clear Pan-Arab commitment to embrace strong forward thinking policies of the RE business.

# Bamboo Capital Partners and SDG 500

September The Senior Operating Partner of Bamboo Capital Partners introduced Bamboo Capital Partners to EEG Chairperson. The Bamboo Capital Partners is an impact investing platform that provides innovative financing solutions to businesses in emerging markets serving the low and middle income populations for lasting impacts.

The Bamboo Capital Partners and the SDG 500 is a partnership with reputable governments and organisations like the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), CARE, ITC, Smart Africa and the European Union to mobilise public and private sector capital to meet the SDGs in the midst of the pandemic. The SDG 500 is a new member of the GISD Alliance and it aims at deploying USD 500 million of impact capital in start-ups and SMEs across 6 strategies:

Tech4Impact in Africa

**Tech4Impact in Latin America** 

**Health Tech in** emerging markets Gender justice in **South East Asia** 

Smallholder agriculture in Africa SMEs in Least **Developed** Countries



# **TEth** EEG Attends Kickstarter Webinar on UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

September EEG attended on 15<sup>th</sup> September, the Strategy Reveal and Engagement Kickstarter webinar in lieu of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Against a backdrop of environmental crisis, the UN Decade is a chance to revive the natural world that supports us all. According to reports, it is this period of the next ten years that will count in the fight to avert climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Thus, the UN Decade aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. Here are ten actions in the strategy of the UN Decade that can build a #GenerationRestoration.

Empower a global movement

Finance restoration on the ground

Set the right incentives

Celebrate leadership Shift behaviours Invest in research

Build up capacity

Celebrate a culture of restoration

Build up the next generation

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Listen and learn

The webinar also saw the reveal of the new logo and communication tools that will be used to engage and inspire millions of people who will be involved in the Decade. Similarly, the main hashtag for the Decade will be #GenerationRestoration. Th UN Decade will inspire and support governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, children and youth, private sector companies, indigenous peoples, farmers, women's groups, local communities and individuals globally to collaborate and develop the appropriate skillsets for catalysing and successfully implementing restoration initiatives across the world. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will officially be launched in 2021.

# 20<sup>th</sup> September

# EEG's Virtual Panel Discussion on UAE A Biodiversity Haven

EEG organised its 4<sup>th</sup> and final Panel Discussion virtually this year on **20<sup>th</sup> September**, titled "UAE A Biodiversity Haven". The discussion highlighted the importance of

biodiversity in the cycle of life, and the efforts made by the UAE to preserve its biological diversity.

This seminar, witnessed a strong presence from inside and outside the country. The esteemed participants were, EEG Chairperson, Director of the Environment, Health and Safety Department at Al Ain Zoo, Head of the Conservation Programme Unit at Al Ain Zoo, Director of Conservation at Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, and Principal of Arbor School - Dubai.

EEG chairperson expressed in her opening remarks that Biodiversity is in crisis, she said, "there is an irreversible decline of genetic and species diversity and disintegration of ecosystems at global, regional, and local scales. According to an article, from the world economic forum, anthropogenic activities have led to the loss of 83% of all wild mammals and half of plants. Scientists are concerned that human activities are putting increased pressure and affecting biodiversity immensely".

She said that in order to raise awareness on this topic and to encourage interactions between members of the UAE society, and to relate this global environmental issue to regional and local situations, EEG has organised this Panel discussion to focus on the targets set out in the UN SDG 14 and 15, tackling the challenges and the progress made in the conservation efforts of life on land and life on water in the UAE.



Each of the expert panelists presented their practices and shared valuable information that helped give the attendees more insight on how to conserve ecosystems on a global, regional and local level. The esteemed speakers also demonstrated facts about the wealth of terrestrial, avian and marine found within the UAE which eliminates the assumption that UAE is home to only a desert ecosystem but actually to three.

"An Eco literate student will understand the natural systems that sustain life on earth and apply the principles guiding ecosystems to help create sustainable human communities and societies" Said the principle of The Arbor School as he strongly supported the importance of environmental education at school.

In an effort to implement effective good governance and planning, Director of Conservation at Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, reiterated the overall purpose of DDCR as a regional leader in biodiversity conservation and building resilience to climate change in arid land ecosystems. The two ladies shared insights on Al Ain Zoo's mission and vision for conservation of biodiversity in the UAE "Since its establishment in 1968, conservation has been the main objective of Al Ain Zoo, following the vision of the Late Shaikh Zayed.

The organisations' aim is to position itself as one of the global leaders in arid land wildlife conservation and animal management and deliver best practice veterinary care and wildlife management."EEG Chairperson concluded the panel discussion by praising the efforts done by the UAE which have led to important achievements globally.





# nd Circular, Affordable Housing

EEG team attended the "Circular, Affordable Housing webinar" on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Organised by the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) in association with One Planet Build with Care. With the environmental issues being the foremost cause and consequence of natural disasters, panelists from RMIT University stressed on the need for programmes and frameworks to help optimize resources and provide long-lasting solutions in the global rehabilitation approaches. The webinar showcased several case-studies for disaster reconstruction highlighting the lessons learned and how adopting the UN cluster approach was one of the most effective global frameworks to target disaster risk

reduction by engaging various UN departments.

### SDG Business Forum

EEG participated on 23rd September in the SDG Business Forum's  $5^{th}$  anniversary, co-hosted virtually by the UN Global Compact (UNGC), UN Department of Economic

and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

The SDG Business Forum aimed at fostering public-private dialogues, catalyse new partnerships and alliances, and explored innovative business solutions to accelerate sustainable development.

The Forum, which was a part of Uniting Business series, was held on the occasion of the 75th UN General Assembly, the 2020 Biodiversity Summit and the Beijing +25 Conference. It served as a platform for like-minded civil society leaders, chief executives, corporate sustainability experts, business leaders and youth leaders to come together for meaningful dialogues on the role of the private sector in addressing the current economic landscape and to co-create lasting solutions for a more sustainable future.

The Forum also highlighted the companies that are using their influence as a positive agents of change in their local communities and across the world.

# UAE Green Buildings Market Brief 2020

EEG Chairperson, the co-Founder and Board Treasurer of EGBC on 24th September, facilitated the webinar for the launch of the 2020 UAE Green Buildings Market Brief.

This latest Brief highlights green building policies in Dubai and current status of green buildings in the country. The publication has received the support of KEO and Majid Al Futtaim.

She emphasised on EGBC's aim to promote sustainable best practices by strengthening and promoting green building initiatives across the UAE and the wider MENA Region.

Highlighting some of the key findings of the report such as the UAE has nearly 64 million square metres built-up area as per its local green building regulations, she further added that the "UAE is one of the frontrunners when it comes to the environment and sustainability. It is one of the first nations to ratify to the Paris Agreement and is working towards its goal of achieving net zero carbon buildings by 2050".

EGBC acknowledged Abu Dhabi's Department of Municipalities and Transport, Dubai Municipality, International WELL Building Institute (IWBI), Regulatory and Supervisory Bureau (RSB) Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah Municipality, Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority (SEWA), TAQATI and Trakhees for their contribution to the market brief by providing data and figures.

EGBC presented an overview of the UAE Green Building Market. A presentation on the opportunities and trends for the UAE construction and building sector was led by KEO, followed by a panel discussion that included the supporting entities.

# September

# th Climate leadership Networking Conference

EEG team has participated in the Climate Leadership Networking Conference that took place on 26th, September to exchange and discuss a variety of topics such as climate finance, climate science and narratives, and the role of Civil Society in climate diplomacy. The conference was organised by the Green European Foundation with the support of the Green Economics Institute, aiming to bring together actors from civil society and to engage policy makers, academics, campaigners, writers, and scientists. The one day event provided participants with resources and connections in the run up to COP26 Glasgow 2021.

# Roundtable Discussion-Dubai Chamber

EEG Chairperson participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> online roundtable discussion organised by Dubai Chamber of Commerce for the business councils and business groups. Several insightful presentations were shared.

The meeting started with opening remarks and updates on the challenges faced by the business community and the impact COVID-19 has left on businesses and people across the world, highlighting challenges to be faced regarding supply and demand issues.

The Retirement Visa programme was introduced during this meeting, this initiative comes as the demand for retirement destinations increases which makes Dubai the perfect destination and opportunity for retirees.

Representative from Expo 2020 presented the different programmes and theme weeks that will take place and introduced the EXPO 2020 B2B APP that will become available to download in January 2021.

Updates were also shared by speakers representing the Multi-Nation Task Force that includes several chambers of commerce and other relevant bodies; they spoke on different issues, feedbacks and workshops that they have completed.



# 29<sup>th</sup>

## Meeting of Heads of State and Government

EEG Chairperson attended on **29**<sup>th</sup> **September**, the meeting of Heads of States and Governments on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

in the Era of COVID19 & Beyond under the strong presence of H.E Antonio Gutierrez, the UN Secretary-General.

This was the follow-up meeting to the High-Level Event that took place on 28<sup>th</sup> May convened by Canada, Jamaica and the Secretary-General to discuss the policy options and work of the six working groups formed as a result of the rich and tangible deliberations. The groups received logistical, technical and substantive support from 20 specialised UN entities, funds and programmes.

The Secretary-General emphasised on the devastating impact of the pandemic on human health and urged the world leaders to come together to not just tackle the current crisis but build on the deliverables of the SDGs to ensure an inclusive and prosperous future.

Further, the Director General of International Monetary Fund (IMF) passionately expressed that the current crisis due to the pandemic can be reversed if we work together and Build Forward Better.

The Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) called the pandemic a wake-up call and warned of the lost opportunities if we don't act now.

# Neighbourhood Recycling Project

The 10<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Neighborhood Recycling Project started on 1<sup>st</sup> June and successfully concluded on 30<sup>th</sup> September. EEG decided this year and for the first time to open participation for non-member students to take part in this project.

It was important for EEG to ensure that particularly amidst an ongoing pandemic, students still had a chance to actively engage with the community while keeping safe through social distancing. We hope to see the student community continue with the same enthusiasm towards EEG's other waste management campaigns.

We received active participation from 151 students, compared to 85 participants in 2019. A total of 133 trees will be planted under the participant's names at EEG's tree planting ceremony "For our Emirates We Plant" on 20.12.20.



# One Root, One Communi-Tree (Phase 2)

As an affiliated body to the UNCCD and UNEP, one of EEG's main objectives has been to combine the efforts of its waste management campaigns with afforestation ones to help combat desertification in the UAE. With that being said the "One Root One Communi-tree" project aims for a greener UAE and to divert waste away from landfills. Through this programme, EEG is able to engage various sectors within the UAE to spread environmental message and instill the values of recycling amongst them. EEG encourages more individuals and entities to join the second phase of "One Root One Communi-Tree". The second phase of "OROC" will conclude on the 30th November. Register now to protect and conserve our environment. To participate, please register: https://forms.gle/tVt2tV8vAt7yhgrYA

The programme has already registered **161** participants and the quantities collected are:



### Can Collection Drive

EEG invites all its members and supporters to participate in its annual Can Collection Drive 2020, the  $24^{\text{th}}$  cycle of the campaign has so far managed to collect a total of **7,389** kg of Aluminum Cans, which accounts for **40**% only of our set goal for this year.

We call all sectors and entities in the UAE to come together in the fight against irresponsible disposal of waste and participate in the "Can Collection Drive" project on 7<sup>th</sup> November, all you have to do is collect as many Aluminum Cans as you can, come to your most convenient location and deposit your collection with us. Join us now and be a part of this national movement to create a global impact. To participate, Please register: https://forms.gle/LGpzMChmSkgF4Kj48

The campaign has already registered 51 participants





# EEG launches Scrap Metal Recycling Project

The world has now realised that by not living sustainably and continuing to encroach on our environment, the consequences will return and affect us all. The pandemic has put a strain on both our physical and mental health and has led to the collapse of economies worldwide, it has also made the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 to be much harder to fulfill now. During these critical times, critical measures should be taken to ensure that environmental sustainability will not take a setback. This is why EEG is inputting extra efforts to attain environmental sustainability. During EEG's 3 decades of relentless work, we have witnessed so much growth in the overall environmental awareness and literacy in the country and an increase in sustainable practices. To celebrate this, we are launching for the first time a one month Scrap Metal Recycling Project for EEG's Student, Individual, Academic and Corporate Members. It was launched on 20th September and will continue till 20th October 2020. Register now: http://forms.gle/UYIRTBSHBU95xGNb7

### **Educational News**

# **Educational Programmes**

Emirates Environmental Group's Educational Programmes are platforms where youth participation in global environmental action is facilitated. We are thrilled to welcome school students from across the nation to join the 20<sup>th</sup> cycle of our Educational Programmes with ENOC as a Strategic Educational Partner.

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# Students Workshops - "Sustainability A Global Puzzle"

The 20<sup>th</sup> cycle of our annually conducted Student's Workshops is being held on the **20**<sup>th</sup> **-22**<sup>nd</sup> **October** in line with the current world scenarios, EEG has designed and developed the workshop for this year under the theme of "Sustainability a Global Puzzle".

As an accredited body to UNEP and UNCCD, EEG, through this programme, contributes to the fulfillment of UN SDG Goal number 4: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" and educates the young minds in the field of environmental sustainability. It offers students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge base and sharpen their environmental skills with special focus on recovery from Covid-19. This workshop will encompass six activities that test the students and help them develop their skills in Creativity, Writing, Oration, and Critical Thinking and Athleticism. For more information about EEG's Educational programmes please visit: https://www.eeg-uae.org/educational-programme/nd

# The Inter-School Environmental Public Speaking Competition

The Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition (ISEPSC) commencing on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 will be conducted remotely. EEG invites all schools to reinforce the confidence and critical thinking skills of their students and feed their minds with sound environmental knowledge along with the opportunity to connect and widen their societal network. All you need to do is follow the link, choose the suitable topic as per the specific category and register: https://docs.google.com/

# The Inter-College Environmental Public Speaking Competition

Held yearly under the kind patronage of the Ministry of State for Higher Education, the competition that has proven to be highly popular across the UAE, GCC and MENA regions, the annual Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition (ICEPSC) is coming this year as promised on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. We urge all colleges and Universities to register and participate and prepare our future leaders for the role that is required of them in sustainable development. https://forms.gle/K1WH86CNtk5gFtww6

### **UN News**



# Rethinking Nature: A Pathway towards Sustainable Development

Civil Society Unit at UNEP issued their latest perspective N0.38, titled "Rethinking Nature: A Pathway towards Sustainable Development". The perspective discusses the close interconnected relationship between nature and people, and how our current approaches and actions to speed up economic growth are harming nature and ecosystems. Rapid industrialisation, unplanned urbanisation, and excessive resource utilisation is rapidly changing our climate. This perspective highlights our dependency on nature to meet all necessary requirements for life, our economic growth and development also largely depend on nature and this dependency is not expected to fade with time. It is optimistic to see that many nature-focused interventions and approaches have been increasingly talked about and implemented in recent years; these interventions have been framed as the concept "Nature Based Solutions". NBS involve working with and enhancing nature to help address societal challenges that benefit both humans and biodiversity. Nature Based Solutions are key to achieving the UN 17 SDGS by putting nature in the center of the development approach. Nature based interventions are cost effective, easier to maintain than built infrastructures, and provide long-term and multiple benefits. To read more about why do we need nature to develop sustainably and why is important to implement nature- based interventions

For more details please click







# **Exciting Work Opportunities in UNEP**

NEP EWS

UNCCD NEWS

UNEP has announced Two Senior Staff vacancies both are at the level of D2, one to lead on the Law Division and the second as the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat both located in UNEP HQ, in Nairobi. UNEP has initiated the recruitment process, which will be closing on 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October respectively, for more information on both vacancies, visit the below links to view the requirements, responsibilities and competencies.

D2. Director Law Division

https://careers.un.org/lbw/jobdetail.aspx?id=140676 https://careers.un.org/lbw/jobdetail.aspx?id=140803

D2, Executive Secretary UNEP/Ozone Secretariat

Launch of GGW Report

the UN Convention to Combat Desertification launched on 7<sup>th</sup> September, the new report titled "The Great Green Wall: Implementation Status and Way Ahead to 2030" at a virtual meeting of environmental ministers several African Countries with regional partners, international organisations and development agencies. The Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative was launched in 2007 under the leadership of the African Union Commission and Pan-African Agency, with the financial support from the government of Ireland. The report provides an overview of the status and implementation progress of the initiative, accounting for land restoration progress made on the ground as well as for financial resources allocated to the initiative. It has received strong support from the international community as a flagship programme to combat land

The GGW has over the past 13 years restored close to 20 million hectares of land. By 2030, it aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land, sequester 250 million tons of carbon in the soil and create 10 million green jobs in rural areas. The report also states that over 350,000 jobs were created and around \$90 million

degradation, desertification, drought, climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty and food insecurity.

For more details please click



**EEG Upcoming Events** 





in revenues was generated from 2007 to 2018 through the GGW activities.





Sponsorship opportunities are available for all our programmes, Please reach out to us to get more details on each of them

# **EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE**

EEG Welcomed 1 renewed academic member, 7 new student members & 19 renewed student members in the month of September 2020

EEG Welcomeu 1 reneweu academic member, 7 new student members & 13 renewed student members in the month of September 2020						
ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP						
American Univeristy of Sharjah	Renewal					
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP						
Aditya Manoj	New	Aryan Trivedi	Renewal			
Bhakti Venkatesh Hegde	New	Evelyn Binu Mathew	Renewal			
Gautham Radhakrishnan	New	Gargi Namjoshi	Renewal			
Keith Nathan Saldanha	New	Mahima Trivedi	Renewal			
Prisha Thakkar	New	Mohamed Sameer Imam	Renewal			
Sheryl Kingson	New	Muhammad Vakil	Renewal			
Sri Parthiv Kanishk Gutti	New	Niyamat Nanda	Renewal			
Aditi Gandhi	Renewal	Rose Vincent	Renewal			
Aditya Shankar Banerjee	Renewal	Saanvi Jain	Renewal			
Akshay Ashok	Renewal	Sahaana Vasantha Kumar	Renewal			
Alena Sunil Mampallil	Renewal	Vibha Ragothaman	Renewal			
Arham Jain	Renewal	Zahrah Vakil	Renewal			
Arnav Jain	Renewal	Zaina Singh	Renewal			

# Waste Management Programme - Monthly Progress Report

The collection of materials for recycling in the month of September resulted in the following benefits:

- GHG Reductions 363 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>)
  Saving of 2,470 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 593 m3 of Landfill Space
- Saving of 1,851 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 1,482 Gallons of Gasoline













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PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 89,634 kg of Paper from 261 participants during	GEMS United Indian School	3,065	Abhinav Suresh	1,535
the month of September 2020, an increase of 33% compared to August 2020. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2020 so as to enable us to work	Rashid School For Boys	2,490	Sreepadmanabhan Vimal Kumar	1,090
towards our target. The Top Collectors were:	New Delhi Private School	2,470	Nia Tony	930
			-	
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 202 kg of Aluminum Cans from 21 participants	Indian School Al Garhoud	25	Madhav Manoj Vachali	50
during the month of September 2020, a decrease of 2% compared to August 2020.The top collectors for the month were:	The Arbor School	20	_	_
Tagast 20201116 top contents to the month were	-	-	-	_
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 6,921 kg of Plastic from 134 participants during the month of September 2020 an increase of 23 % compared to August 2020. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2020. The top collectors for the month were:	Bint Al Shatee School - UAQ	155	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Abdulla Al Dhanhani	200
	Rashid School for Boys	71	Aishwarya V Nair & K. Aravindan (Tie)	100
	Delhi Private School Sharjah & Springdale School, Al Quoz (Tie)	60	Sri Parthiv Kanishk Gutti	87
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 275 pcs of Toners from 10 participant during the	The Arbor School	20	Tanmeen Patel	34
month of September 2020, an increase of 11 % compared to August 2020. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2020. The			Mishal Faraz	18
Top collectors were:	•	-	Sydelle Mathias	13
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 4,186 kg of Glass Bottles from 49 participants during the month of September 2020, an increase of 34% compared to August 2020. We encourage our participants to collect more in the year 2020. The Top collectors were:	American University of Sharjah	230	Aashika Singh	155
			Mana Al Suwaidi	130
		-	Hassan Abdullah Hassan & M. N Vivekanadan (Tie)	50
MOBILE PHONE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 398 pcs of Mobile Phones from 12 participants during the month of September 2020, an increase of 747% compared to August 2020. We thank our participants and encourage them to collect more for the remaining months. The Top collectors were:			Madhav Manoj	42
	-		Maryam Imran Akharware	31
		-	Janet Dsouza, Keith Nathan Saldanha & Niharika Nagadi Arvind (Tie)	30

