

# EEG CORP NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة  
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
GROUP



December 2020  
Issue 12



# 49 UAE NATIONAL DAY



## Upcoming Events

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We Plant  
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## Reach Out to EEG for More Details



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Every SATURDAY, 9:00AM to 4:00PM  
Villa No. JMR. 68, Jumeirah 1, between old Dubai Zoo  
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For more info, call EEG at 04 344 8622, or  
email [eeg@emirates.net.ae](mailto:eeg@emirates.net.ae) - [www.eeg-uae.org](http://www.eeg-uae.org)



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## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

On behalf of the Emirates Environmental Group, I wish you all a very Happy 49<sup>th</sup> UAE National Day! This year, I believe the UAE National Day gives us dual reasons to celebrate. The bravery and dedication of Emirati martyrs, and the fight of our leaders against COVID-19. In both, we have stood strong in our foundation to never back down.

We have all survived the unprecedented times together as the world entered 2020 with the outbreak of COVID-19. With one more month left to bid this year a goodbye, Emirates Environmental Group stands proud and content with the unique successes that it has achieved in its various campaigns and programmes throughout the year.

We owe it all to our members, partners and supporters, who have consistently believed in our vision of bringing the communities together with a sole purpose of creating a better environment and a sustainable future.

The momentum for climate action has accelerated recently, but the progress in achieving the global goals has been rather disappointing. The world is now looking forward to the year 2021 with great hopes to build back better from the impacts of the pandemic. It is expected to be a year of transition to stronger climate action.

There are many lessons learned from the pandemic, especially environmental protection and human security. The inter-dependency has been an eye-opener to global and national leaders. The crisis has therefore, on various platforms reiterated that good decision-making must be in accordance with the scientific data and practical approach.

The pandemic has given us an opportunity to make a fresh start and give up on the selfish ways that we (the humans) thrived on for development and economic growth.

The recovery plans, which are under consideration and the policy options that are under deliberations will be impactful only if we all join in the efforts, individually as well as collectively. We have to take COVID-19 as an opportunity to keep 'sustainability' as a central point in every activity.

This month's newsletter issue will walk you through the amazing chapter of EEG's 2020 journey that we concluded victoriously with the participation and support of responsible individuals and organisations. In the month of November, we organised the annual Can Collection Drive which was open to everyone in the country.

We also conducted 20<sup>th</sup> cycle of Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition as a virtual event, followed by a hybrid event of the Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition to enable the students from different Arab Countries to join and to express their passion for environment and voice their concerns facing their future. We also concluded the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of our popular programme "One Root. One Communitree". EEG was able to witness the astounding enthusiasm and devotion from the student community, the academia and the corporate world towards a more just and sustainable world.

I was also delighted to join the new podcast series and share the inspiring story of EEG since its inception in 1991. We have indeed come far and established ourselves as one of a kind, our zeal and perseverance continues. I also thank the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment for inviting EEG to attend the virtual event of UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020. It was truly a motivating platform for us to know the great work that the Secretariat and the respective focal points have done this year, in spite of the pandemic crisis read more on (page no.5).

In the last month of 2020, we have our concluding and major campaigns, the "Clean Up UAE" Campaign, the "Green December" and "For Our Emirates We Plant". I am eagerly waiting to meet you all in these wonderful outdoor programmes and enjoy the excellent weather. Let us all in unity give back to our environment and community the care that it deserves.

I encourage our ardent readers to read this full issue of our newsletter to find out more of such important engagements. We have a lot to share with you and we want to hear from you as well. Find out all about our upcoming and engaging campaigns on our website [www.eeg-uae.org](http://www.eeg-uae.org), and join us 'Together for a better Environment'!



## Engaging with EGBC

### 1) EGBC Congress & Awards

EEG Chairperson, a co-Founder and the Board Treasurer of Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress that was organised on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November. The theme of the congress this year was ‘Building a Sustainable Future in Uncertain Times’ under the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. EEG Chairperson moderated the 1st panel discussion titled “From crisis to recovery: market overview for the green building sector”, wherein the speakers were from Clean Energy Business Council, Global Urban Development, World Green Building Council and Maijd Al Futtaim. The event discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on the construction and building sector, and how to use the existing and potential opportunities to

build a sustainable and resilient future for the UAE. The international and regional speakers from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, KEO, World Economic Forum, International WELL Building Institute, Saint-Gobin, WHO- Regional Office of Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO), Knauf, Masdar, AESG, Dubai Health Authority and many such diverse disciplines shared insights from their respective expertise. The other areas of discussion included circular economy in the built environment, healthy buildings, innovations and solutions within the green building industry, resilient cities, carbon neutrality in high rise, turning climate commitments into action on projects, indoor environment quality and many more. The Congress on 18<sup>th</sup> November was concluded with 2020 MENA Green Building Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner.

### 2) Towards the Next 50 Years: A sustainable Development Plan

Mrs. Habiba Al Mar’ashi on 30<sup>th</sup> November joined the virtual Tabreed webinar that invited the UAE’s prominent sustainability leaders to address the importance of embedding sustainability in the agenda of next 50 years. EEG Chairperson shared her view on global sustainability trends and said, “As we all prepare to rise from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are multiple opportunities for the construction sector around the world as well as in the UAE Region.”

To that she emphasised on using the available Deep Retrofit technology to reduce 50% of on-site energy use. She also suggested the need of creating blueprint of the UAE’s success to lead momentum to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. She shared

the key activities of EGBC such as, MENA Green Building Awards and Annual Congress that brings the public and private sectors for joint efforts towards sustainability. Education being one of the core pillars of the UAE’s plan for capacity building, the discussions also focused on the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in the educational curriculum. Further, talking about the UAE’s progress towards sustainability goals, Mrs. Habiba mentioned the 11 consultative meetings that were organised by over 1,000 ministers, senior federal and local government officials that put economic and environment models central to next 50 years’ agenda. The UAE Centennial Plan 2071 launched under the leadership of H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is yet another promising outlook for the country.

## 4<sup>th</sup> November CEBC Members Virtual Networking

EEG Chairperson attended the CEBC Members Virtual Networking event on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Bridging the gap of social distancing, the event was a great platform for the exchange of ideas and suggestions among the members of elaborate expertise. The event started with the achievements of the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) during the past few months and highlights of the current and progressing activities. Members were able to interact in the thematic networking breakout rooms which created rich discussions. EEG is proud to continue association with its sister organisation, the CEBC on this interesting platform.

## 7<sup>th</sup> November CAN Arab World

EEG Chairperson was invited for the inaugural day of the General Assembly of the Climate Action Network (CAN) of the Arab World on 7<sup>th</sup> November. This virtual dialogue between civil society and government representatives was organised under the slogan of “Moving to renewable energies in the Arab world is not an option, but a necessity” by the CAN Arab World, which was founded by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in 2016. It is the biggest NGO-network in the field of Climate Action in the MENA Region. In the opening session, CAN Executive Director shared what CAN International has been doing in bridging the national and regional efforts. The Assembly was attended by 50 member organisations and the respective representatives shared the updates of their national efforts against climate change. The members from Sudan, Lebanon and Yemen specifically talked about the challenge of food insecurity that they face as a result of multiple emergencies, including the COVID-19. Please click to read more, <http://www.climatenetwork.org/category/region/middle-east>

## 7<sup>th</sup> November The 24<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Can Collection Drive

The annual Can Collection Drive of EEG was successfully organised on 7<sup>th</sup> November under the challenging circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic. However, with all the safety measures in place, EEG was able to run the drive effectively at three sites, i.e. Al Mamzar Park, Al Barsha Pond Park and Zabeel Park in Dubai, while participants from other emirates deposited their collection directly at EEG’s office. The drive brought together more than 120 entities from all over the UAE, which included various hotels, government entities, corporations, academic institutions and families. A total of 3,500 kg of Aluminium Cans were collected for recycling, contributing in saving 84.90 m<sup>3</sup> of landfill space, mitigating 52.5 MT CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy saving of 796.5 million BTU. The group urges all sectors of society to continue depositing aluminum cans for recycling and to help achieve the target set for this year, which is to collect 20,000 kg. EEG Chairperson said in appreciation of the good number of turnout of participants “The commitment and determination of the UAE society to contribute to the cause of sustainability was

seen not only through increasing in the number of participants over the years, but also through the significant number of entities that participated this year in spite of the pandemic”. EEG thanks the Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) for continuing its support as a co-sponsor, and Dubai Municipality and Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) for venue support and outreach. Several entities also joined the drive by providing logistical support, such as; Abela & Co, Lucky Group, McDonald’s UAE and Tristar Group, whereas the Gulf News and Al Murad Group played instrumental roles as media partners.

The drive supported several UN SDGs, i.e. 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, 13: Climate Action, 14: Life below Water, 15: Life on Land and 17: Partnerships for the Goals.



## 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> November Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> November

EEG attended the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Expert Group (AHEG) from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November on Marine Litter and Microplastics that was convened online. This expert group on marine litter and microplastics was established at the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and at the 4<sup>th</sup> session of UNEA, the mandate of the expert group was extended.

The key focus of the AHEG-4 meeting was to discuss and agree on a Chair's Summary to inform the 5th meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) on how best to tackle marine litter and microplastics. The Chair's Summary that will be presented at UNEA-5 focused on two main aspects:

1. Review of the present situation
2. Potential national, regional and international response options

During the meeting, delegates also considered the Secretariat's efforts in strengthening the scientific and technological knowledge and enhance coordination and cooperation through a multi-stakeholder platform. A welcome move here was the establishment of a mapping process of existing instruments, measures, initiatives, and approaches on marine

litter, as well as their assessment on sources, pathways, and hazards. The meeting also witnessed expert discussions on the progress of addressing the problem, discussing the results of a stocktaking exercise of ongoing activities conducted by the Secretariat, as well as an inventory of available technical and financial resources available for ongoing work to address the scourge of marine plastics and microplastics. In their consideration of the Chair's Summary, delegates engaged in robust discussions on the need for a new global treaty.

It was interesting to see a number of representatives support a call for the document to signal to the Assembly that the time has come to establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee to begin talks on a new treaty. In the end, the meeting agreed to the Chair's summary, which was hailed as a neutral and factual document, containing a non-exhaustive list of response options to marine litter and microplastics (which is the need of the hour). This was a wonderful meeting that tackled a number of pertinent issues related to marine litter and microplastics. We congratulate the UN Environment Programme Secretariat on their efforts to organise this meeting despite all the logistical and technical challenges.

## 12<sup>th</sup> November Food Systems Approach to Climate Change

12<sup>th</sup> November

The EEG Chairperson on 12<sup>th</sup> November joined the webinar titled 'Food Systems Approach to Climate Change -The NDCs we want' organised by the United Nations Environment Programme, World Wide Fund, the Alliance of Biodiversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food).

During the webinar, the recommendations were shared from the Report, enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Food Systems, recently published by WWF, UNEP, EAT and Climate Focus, which explains 16 specific food system-related mitigation and adaptation measures countries can take. The key discussions included

the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, and recommendations from the report titled 'Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions'. The webinar was part of a Series of webinars on Food Systems Approach in Practice promoted by the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme. Moderated by UNEP Climate Change Global Coordinator the esteemed speakers were Research Director from Climate Action, Alliance of Diversity International and CIAT; Vice President & Research Director, Project Drawdown; Global Policy Manager Food, WWF International; Deputy Director, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems, IPES-Food; Adviser to the Climate Change Directorate of Costa Rica; and City Counselor, Deputy Mayor of Leuven, Belgium, in charge of climate, sustainability, agriculture and consumption.

## 15<sup>th</sup> November Miswak Tree Planting

15<sup>th</sup> November

EEG on 15<sup>th</sup> November in collaboration with its corporate member Dabur organised the Miswak Tree Planting. It was supported by the management of the Saih Al Salam Protected Area, wherein a total 20 saplings of Miswak tree were planted on the premises. This activity was conducted as part of "Together We Plant" project that EEG implements with its corporate members. This was a unique tree planting activity, due to the high importance of Miswak tree in the Arabic culture and traditions and same being one of the most-sought toothpaste brands of Dabur Company. EEG consistently looks forward to such value added initiatives from its members and supporters to roll them out for the benefit of the society and the general environment.

## 25<sup>th</sup> November The Matrix Green Pill Podcast

25<sup>th</sup> November

The Matrix PR Dubai on 25<sup>th</sup> November invited EEG Chairperson for its new podcast series titled 'The Matrix Green Pill'. She narrated EEG's inspiring journey since its inception in 1991 and the progress it has made in raising awareness and building actions on climate change, environmental protection, and responsible waste management in the UAE and beyond.

She shed light on the challenges that EEG faced in gaining the necessary trust and support from local and federal governmental agencies during its budding phase. The Matrix PR Dubai also congratulated EEG for being the first environmental NGO in the world to be ISO 14001 certified and the only organisation of its kind in the UAE with accredited status to the United Nations Convention to Combating Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). The innovative educational programmes of EEG were also discussed; wherein the Chairperson talked about the active and passionate participation that it receives from students in different age groups. She touched on the Students workshops, the Interschool and Intercollege Environmental Public Speaking Competitions. She invited the listeners to the upcoming events of EEG in the month of December; the "Clean Up UAE" campaign, the "Green December" project and the "For Our Emirates We Plant" programme.

Click to listen to the podcast, <https://thematrixgreenpill.com/2020/11/24/episode-10/>



## 26<sup>th</sup> Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues

**November** EEG attended the virtual Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues on Plastics and Waste on **26<sup>th</sup> November**. This session was the first dialogue hosted by the Geneva Environment Network to build recommendations towards the High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance Dialogue in February 2021. Its aim was to outreach and create synergies by highlighting the efforts made by intergovernmental organisations and governments, businesses, the scientific community, civil society and individuals for coordinated actions. It further addressed the plastic crisis and supported the coordinated approaches that can lead to more efficient decision

making. The speakers were from United Nations Environment Programme; Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; Chemicals Control and Management Centre, Ghana; Global Affairs Section, Switzerland; Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway; and Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL).

The Dialogues are in collaboration with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat, the Center for International Environmental Law, the Global Governance Centre at the Graduate Institute, Norway, and Switzerland. <https://bit.ly/3liQSEe>

## 26<sup>th</sup> The Climate Dialogues 2020

**November** The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment invited EEG Chairperson to attend the various events of Climate Dialogues 2020 organised virtually by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The first event titled ‘Addressing Knowledge Gaps: Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation’ took place on **26<sup>th</sup> November**, it was based on climate change and its threat on biodiversity and ecosystems. The expert speakers in this session were from Nature Campaign and Adaptation and Loss and Damage Negotiations, Chilean Ministry of Environment, Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático Mexico (INECC) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

The engaging conversation addressed the key question of how can forests and grasslands biodiversity and ecosystems be better integrated into adaptation solutions at the national level. They shared preliminary key findings that will be published in January 2021; examined challenges, lessons learned and opportunities; and explored

areas to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem planning into national plans and policies. On the same evening of **26<sup>th</sup> November**, ‘Global Gender Event: Recap on 2020 and way forward’ was also organised, it emphasised on the progress achieved from the implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) in 2020.

The Executive Secretary of UNFCCC in the opening remarks talked about the increasing women-led projects that are innovative, scalable and climate action oriented. The representatives from UNFCCC and various member states showcased the leadership role of the Secretariat in ensuring that gender equality is made central to the climate actions initiatives. They discussed about the regional workshops on gender integration into climate actions, wherein the Associate Programme Officer of Gender and Climate Change - UNFCCC presented the purpose, format and data from the workshops.

The workshops conducted by the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs) to advance the capacity and skills on climate action and gender inclusiveness was also one of the key part of the discussion. The focal points here shared briefs about their role, the challenges they faced and successes that they have achieved in 2020. Please click to know more, <https://unfccc.int/cd2020>

## 29<sup>th</sup> Celebrating UAE National Day with The Millennium School

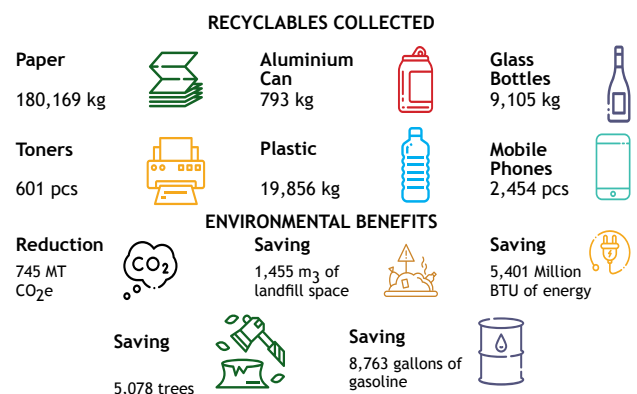
**November** EEG Chairperson was invited as a Chief Guest at the celebration of the 49<sup>th</sup> UAE National Day by The Millennium School on **29<sup>th</sup> November**. “Today we celebrate 49 years of unity between the seven emirates and appreciate the UAE’s great efforts in making this country a peaceful place for us all. Although, this year brought in a series of unfortunate, and unexpected events for us, and for the country; we gather to celebrate UAE’s immense capacity to endure these events and the nation’s positivity for a brighter future”, she said in her addressing note. Sharing the pride of unity and peace that are the legacy of Sheikh Zayed, she encouraged everyone to use the power of education and commit themselves to advance the UAE progress to an inclusive and sustainable country in the future. She warmly welcomed all the attendees to join EEG’s movement towards a better environment and raise the nation’s standards by contributing to the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed, which is for the young generation to be of service to the country.

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

One Root One Communi-Tree is yet another waste management project conducted by EEG in two phases during the year. OROC phase 2 commenced on **28<sup>th</sup> August** and concluded on the **30<sup>th</sup> November**. Targets for each sector were defined and communicated accordingly through the EEG website and other social media channels.

Emails were sent to the wide network of EEG members and regular follow up calls were conducted to encourage participation.

Upon meeting these pre-set targets, the respective participants will be given the privilege to plant trees under their name at the annual tree planting ceremony - “For Our Emirates We Plant” scheduled for 20.12.20.



## Green December Project Starts Today

Green December is a student members exclusive waste management project that happens in the last month of every year. It is popularly known as 'The Winter Recycling Project' that aims to inspire its student members to help achieve the targets set for the collection of recyclables. Starting from 1<sup>st</sup> December till 20<sup>th</sup> December, the target for this year is 500 kg paper, 35kg plastic, 20kg aluminum cans, 50kg Glass, 50 mobile phones, and 50 toner cartridges. Students have the freedom to select any one or all of the mentioned recyclables and deposit at EEG's office. All the student members are encouraged to join in this campaign and make a difference to the environment. Register in the link below, [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG\\_LHOo6GDMox29ionxKV\\_fJ5JD5Nuh4g8FSZYe6bdI5aW5A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG_LHOo6GDMox29ionxKV_fJ5JD5Nuh4g8FSZYe6bdI5aW5A/viewform)

## Corporate News

### Digital Twins at Expo 2020 Dubai will Drive Energy Efficiency

Expo Dubai 2020, a corporate member of EEG virtually brought together on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November the leading development and technology experts, and government officials from around the world for its Urban and Rural Development Week. This was organised in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Siemens-Expo's Premier Infrastructure Digitalisation Partner. "With the help of the brightest minds in the management and development of our habitats, Expo 2020 Dubai is inviting the world to explore how we can ensure that the habitats of the future are smart, resilient and sustainable, where no one is left behind", said the UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation Further to the future of smart cities and sustainable habitats, Expo 2020 will connect over 130 buildings to drive optimisation and efficiency. The Executive Vice President of Expo 2020 for Siemens stated, "By building a digital twin of the Expo site, we will be able to aggregate, analyse, and visualise data that allows smart decision making. This will enable us to connect more than 130 buildings to drive energy efficiency, optimisation and provide a centralised building-management system that will benefit visitors and operators alike. Plus, we will pilot the first green hydrogen storage solution in the region." Please click to read more, <https://www.constructionweekonline.com/business/268574-digital-twins-at-expo-2020-dubai-will-drive-energy-efficiency>

### AI to Reduce Food Waste by 35%

Emirates Flight Catering Co. LLC (EKFC), an active corporate member of EEG is dedicated to invest in latest technologies to optimise its operations and hence, minimise environmental footprint. This is further to the National Food Waste Pledge, an initiative led by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA). EKFC has strengthened its commitment to reduce food waste by 35% across its central operations in Dubai with the help of Winnow, which is a Waste Monitor Intuitive Food Waste Tool. By leveraging the artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, EKFC will monitor and control food waste for the benefit of its customers, its people and broader communities.

The new AI-enabled food waste management system will enable EKFC to significantly improve reporting and data collection to further reduce food waste. Using a camera, a set of smart scales and the same type of machine learning technology found in autonomous vehicles, the advanced system 'learns' to recognise different foods being thrown in the bin and calculates the financial and environmental cost of this discarded food to the kitchens. EKFC will adjust its food purchasing decisions accordingly. The CEO of Emirates Flight Catering said, "Food waste management has always been an area of focus for EKFC and we have already achieved remarkable results through improved data collection and reporting. Implementing new ways of working, supported by technology will help us step up to the next level and further enhance operational efficiency. We look forward to delivering on our ambitious goal of reducing food waste by more than one-third across our central operations."



## Local News

### UAE in G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers

The Minister of State for Financial Affairs, UAE participated in the G20 meeting that was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November virtually. The G20 members discussed the latest developments related to the financial recovery plans post COVID-19 pandemic. The UAE Minister shared the approach towards resilient recovery and explained the crucial role that infrastructure finance and investments can play towards restoring sustainable global economic growth. He said, "We also believe that our joint path of recovery will require embracing new financing methods to build resilient infrastructure, while also working with the private sector on new investment models to accelerate the development process." Earlier on 13<sup>th</sup> November on the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from G20 countries. The ministers and representatives from international and regional organisations discussed the latest economic developments; as well as developments related to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

Visit the link for more details



## AED 6.6 Billion in Environmental and Sustainability Projects

Dubai will be directing AED 6.6 billion in environmental and sustainability projects, which includes Dubai Centre for Waste Processing plant in the Al Warsan area. This will be one of the largest plants in the world with waste processing capacity of **5,666 tonnes** of municipal solid waste per day and **1.9 million tonnes** of municipal solid waste per year, as per Dubai Municipality. Phase one of the project will be completed in 2023 and the entire project will be completed in 2024.

“The UAE is committed to implementing innovative projects that optimise the use of resources and solve critical challenges as part of the country’s strategy to ensure environmental sustainability”, said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai after the project’s review.

He further remarked that the environmental sustainability is a key element in the UAE’s development model, either launched by government entities, independently or in partnership with the private sector.

Visit the link for more details



Other projects include Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary development project to enhance the sanctuary’s ecosystem and biodiversity; development of public beaches with an overall plan to promote a fitness culture and healthy lifestyle; first open garden on Al Mamzar Creek under the Green Dubai Project to add 8 million sq. metres of green space and expand green cover by planting mangrove trees in a 100-hectare area.

## International News

### Global Treaty to Tackle Plastic Pollution

In the month of November, a working group of United Nations on marine litter and micro plastics gathered virtually to discuss the growing issues of plastic waste. As a result of which, more than two-thirds of UN members called for a new agreement to curb plastic pollution. This would be similar to the Paris Climate Agreement or the Montreal protocol for the prevention of ozone depletion.

Further, many NGOs highlighted the need for international agreement to tackle plastic waste. One model for such a treaty, drawn by the Environmental Investigations Agency (EIA), involves four key pillars: monitoring and reporting, to examine the extent of the problem; prevention; coordination; and technical and financial support.



The plastic pollution in oceans is predicted to triple by 2040 if the world doesn’t take required measures to combat this issue. Therefore, a resolution calling for the world community to agree to a binding global agreement was adopted by International Union for the Conservation of Nature members, and 2 million people have already signed a petition.

<https://bit.ly/2VdJgZf>

Please click to read more,

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/16/us-and-uk-yet-to-show-support-for-global-treaty-to-tackle-plastic-pollution>

## UN News



### UNEP NEWS

#### UNEA 5 President’s Proposal to Member States

The UNEA 5 President in his proposal to the Member States on political messages has reaffirmed the United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP) mandate to play the leading global environmental authority role to further promote the sustainable development and global environment protection. As UNEP completes its 50 years in 2022, it is dedicated to contribute to its impactful celebration in February 2021, Nairobi. The President further expressed the concern of serious impacts that COVID-19 has added to the existing environmental challenges, specifically ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, threats to lives and livelihoods, climate change, waste management, etc.

Through multilateral forums on environment, such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on Paris Agreement, negotiations in the Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD) on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and negotiations on the Beyond 2020 Framework on Chemicals and Wastes in the context of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. “We will increase our efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and we do not need to wait until we resume our meeting in February 2022 before we act,” said the UNEA 5 President.





## UNCCD receives Global Award for Work in Assessment of Land Degradation

UNCCD NEWS

EEG is an accredited member of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and congratulates the Convention for the 2020 SDG Custodian Agency award of the Group on Earth Observations Sustainable Development Goals Awards in the month of November 2020. UNCCD is the custodian agency for SDG indicator 15.3.1 that states, 'By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.' It regularly collects the information on the indicator through its national reporting and review process since 2018. Through this award, UNCCD has been recognised for its contribution in building national capacities and supporting the provision, and use of Earth Observations to monitor and assess the status of and changes in natural and built environments. This assessment is useful for national reporting to the UNCCD and reporting on SDG indicator 15.3.1, and also for tracking progress towards voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and for the development of plans of action to redress degradation, including through the conservation, sustainable management, rehabilitation and restoration of land resources.

For more details please click



## EEG Upcoming Events

### Join The Clean Up UAE 2020

EEG's vision is to bring together all the sectors of the UAE society, with the shared objective to be good stewards of the environment. To catalyse community pro-action to benefit the environment, EEG has developed a nationwide cleanup campaign, popularly known as the "Clean Up UAE". The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the campaign - Clean Up UAE 2020 will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in Dubai at Seih Al Salam protected area.

EEG is delighted that the campaign will be held under the Patronage of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, and in the presence of H.E. the Acting Undersecretary, and other government officials.



Through the years, this national campaign has acquired outstanding scope and stature as more and more entities and people joined the movement for a clean, green and sustainable UAE. EEG invites one and all to participate in this campaign by registering here, <https://forms.gle/nyct5dsWFwJMSarb8>

### For Our Emirates We Plant

EEG's annual tree planting ceremony - 'For Our Emirates We Plant' is a perfect sync between its waste management programmes and tree plantation. The champions of the year round recycling campaigns will be awarded with certificates of participation and saplings of indigenous trees that they will get the opportunity to plant in their names on 20.12.20. If you care for nature, EEG will make your passion turn into action. So if you have missed the opportunity to participate in any of the action programmes, don't miss this final activity of the year, you can adopt a tree as well. To know more about the campaign reach out to us on [eeg@emirates.net.ae](mailto:eeg@emirates.net.ae) or better still call us on 04 3448622.



## EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG warmly welcomed 2 renewed Corporate members during the month of November 2020

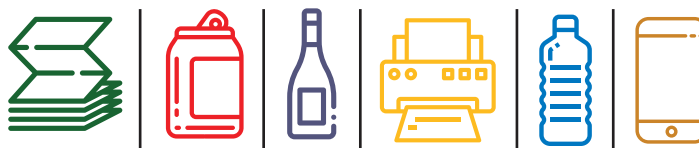
### CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Al Ain Zoo	Renewal	Enova Facilities Management Services LLC	Renewal
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The collection of materials for recycling in the month of November resulted in the following benefits:

- » GHG Reductions 351 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>)
- » Saving of 2,916 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 614 m3 of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 2,585 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 5,833 Gallons of Gasoline



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Individuals	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 72,058 kg of Paper from 209 participants during the month of November 2020, an increase of 32% compared to October 2020. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2020 so as to enable us to work towards our target. The Top Collectors were:	LafargeHolcim Group (Geocycle)	4,070	Deep Shah	1,905
	Wade Adams Contracting LLC	3,050	Nia Tony	1,395
	AG Engineering Abu Dhabi	2,818	Madhav Manoj	1,000
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Individuals	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 3,974 kg of Aluminum Cans from 87 participants during the month of November 2020, an increase of 3029% compared to October 2020. The top collectors for the month were:	Emirates Flight Catering	1,977	Trisha Nihilkumar Sayani	55
	Al Naboodah Construction Group LLC	473	Madhav Manoj Vachali	50
	The Cove Rotana Ras Al khaimah	122	Prisha Thakkar & Varun Pabreja (Tie)	15
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Individuals	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 6,657 kg of Plastic from 120 participants during the month of November 2020 an increase of 4 % compared to October 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:	Wasl Properties - Hudaiba	476	Nia Tony	265
	The Oberoi Beach Resort Al Zorah	457	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Abdulla Al Dhanhani	120
	Abela & Co Al Aweer	380	Nirja Kumar	85
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Individuals	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 160 pcs of Toners from 9 participant during the month of November 2020, an increase of 62 % compared to October 2020. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2020. The Top collectors were:	Sharjah Electricity & Water Authority	65	-	-
	Osborne Engineering LLC	25		
	ESAB Middle East	18		
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (Kg)	Individuals	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 2,704 kg of Glass Bottles from 41 participants during the month of November 2020, an increase of 35% compared to October 2020. We encourage our participants to collect more in the year 2020. The Top collectors were:	Department of Tourism Development Ajman	400	Aashika Singh	130
	Delta Hotels by Marriott	260	Mana Al Suwaidi	90
	Zabeel Palace	155	Surabi Surendran	50
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (Kg)	Individuals	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 1,657 pcs of Mobile Phones from 13 participants during the month of November 2020, an increase of 188% compared to October 2020. We thank our participants and encourage them to collect more for the remaining months. The Top collectors were:	Dubai Public Prosecution	888	Shivani Adduri	390
	Al Shirawi Facilities Management	99	Bhakti Venkatesh Hegde	60
	Al Naboodah Construction Group	75	Aditya Manoj	34

