



Environmental Drawing  
Competition

# Environmental Drawing Competition

4<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

## Upcoming Events

## Click on the issue



21<sup>st</sup> Annual Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition  
Date: 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

**1** Sub-Senior Category  
Sustainable living: A path for a better future?

**2** Sub-Senior Category  
Environment and Education: Need for Change

**3** Senior Category  
Balancing the three pillars of sustainability in a post pandemic world.

**4** Senior Category  
Integrating environment & technology: A solution to sustainability?

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OROC  
21<sup>st</sup> Jan - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021  
ONE ROOT. ONE COMMUNI-TREE

Linking the diverse Waste Management Programme with, "For Our Emirates We Plant"

Waste	Quantity	Waste	Quantity
Paper	500 kg	Paper	2,000 kg
Plastic	100 kg	Plastic	200 kg
Aluminium Cans	25 kg	Aluminium Cans	75 kg
Iron Cans	75 kg	Iron Cans	175 kg
Mobile Phones	30 pcs	Mobile Phones	75 pcs

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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 old Dubai Zoo & Beach Centre.  
For more info, call EEG at 04 344 8622, or email eeg@emirates.net.ae - [www.eeg-uae.org](http://www.eeg-uae.org)



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## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

I pray that the start of the year has been an excellent one for you all! The year has already brought wonderful news with the administration of the COVID-19 vaccines as a result of hard work from the front line workers around the world. We are yet to recuperate from the pandemic and I hope we will see a strong recovery soon.

It we continue celebrating our 30-year anniversary, it gives us immense satisfaction to put on record that we have stood strong over the last three decades. We have faced and handled many challenges and hurdles, however EEG continues to be a pillar of support and strength for the UAE's environment. We also owe it to our members, partners and supporters who have helped us achieve our vision of creating a better and more sustainable environment, we are grateful to the wise leadership of our beloved country that has provided us the enabling environment to work and to deliver on our promise and commitment.

COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore global issues such as inequality, climate change, poverty, pollution and others that continue to disturb our world and disrupt progress on achieving the SDGs. As we recover from the crisis, we have to do so in a viable manner to promote social, economic, and environmental sustainability. We must aim for a green recovery and learn from the lessons of last year.

EEG's January agenda was packed with a myriad of fascinating events. We attended the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) witnessing individuals and organisations from around the world come together to accelerate sustainable development. This inspiring platform brought together high level dialogues on sustainability from organisations such as the UN, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Youth 4 Sustainability and others. The high-level dialogues focused on solving several current pressing issues. Learn more about the discussions in this issue.

EEG attended in January, the monthly global policy dialogues held by UN DESA, with the theme being 'Ensuring Equality, Inclusive Growth and Access to Opportunities'. As the COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all, it has exacerbated the existing wounds of those who already lived in a world without sufficient access to education, healthcare, labour markets and social welfare. I believe that effective recovery is an inclusive recovery. Read more about the UN DESA discussions in

this issue. EEG attended the launch of the Climate Change Research Network (CCRN) under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment on **20<sup>th</sup> January**. The impact of climate change on the ecosystem and community is already evident and is expected to intensify over time. As part of the national climate change plan of the UAE, the MOCCA has taken the lead to implement the national climate change adaptation programme. It was inspiring to see the UAE take action on climate change and I am proud to say that the UAE continues to prove itself to be a leader in climate change efforts in the Arab region. We have also attended many meetings, webinars and sessions of UNEP, GISD and other international entities.

With regards to our educational programmes and activities, we launched the 15<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Environmental Drawing Competition. We are once again enthusiastically calling upon the creativity, imagination, knowledge and environmental awareness of students in the UAE to this event. We also anticipate that students will bring their creative minds and unique perspectives to this year's Inter-School Public Speaking Competition scheduled for the month of April.

I am excited to announce that we have begun phase one of our popular "One Root, One Communi-Tree" programme. For years, this programme has actively engaged corporates, academic institutions, and families to recycle, thereby instilling environmental values amongst the different sectors of the society.

Enthusiasm is also soaring high in the EEG office as we prepare for the 25<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Can Collection Day planned to take place on **25<sup>th</sup> February**. Together, we can effectively tackle the problem of waste in our community and do our part in improving the environment. As for our outreach programme we are busy with the planning of the 1st Panel Discussion for the year taking place in February, read about all these activities in the inside pages of this newsletter.

Overall, EEG has had a great start to the year and we aim to keep the momentum going. I encourage you all to read this newsletter to learn more about our activities in the last month and our upcoming programmes. We are eagerly awaiting you to join us and to continue working Together for a Better Environment.



## 2021 IRENA Legislators Forum (Virtual Edition)

1) EEG Chairperson was invited to attend the 2021 IRENA Legislators Forum, held on **13<sup>th</sup> January**. The topic of discussion for this year’s forum was ‘Parliamentary actions taken to increase investments in renewables. Renewable energy as an enabler of services.’ Honourable parliamentarians and key representatives in the energy sector from around the globe joined to share their valuable knowledge on the topic and provide some unique perspectives of the impact of COVID-19 on energy transition and the limitations of fossil fuels. During the first session, participants agreed on the notion that the energy transition would act as an enabler after the economic repercussions of the pandemic.

The transition to clean energy will result in many socioeconomic opportunities for citizens and governments alike, allowing for economic growth and development. Session two called for discussions with regards to financing the energy transition. This conversation encouraged the members of the parliament to be innovative in attracting investors to help accelerate the move to renewables. Moreover, emphasis was placed on the speed at which the transition needs to take place as global temperatures are increasing rapidly.

2) On **18<sup>th</sup> January**, IRENA designated the day as the World Energy Transition day to allow global leaders to address measures to recover from the pandemic. EEG Chairperson attended the opening plenary session of the IRENA Assembly, which featured high-level statements from the UN Secretary General, the President of the Assembly, among others. A panel on Energy Transition for Sustainable Post-COVID Recovery was conducted, which engaged global leaders, private actors, and regional organisations. They shared their views on the instrumental role that energy transition plays in the process of a green recovery from the pandemic. Various strategies to advance the three pillars of sustainability, i.e., the economic, social, and ecological aspects, were also deliberated. On the **18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January**, the Director General presented the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021, to be considered for adoption by the Assembly. This presentation enabled the group of eminent stakeholders to ponder over the numerous possible means to steer forward towards achieving the Agenda 2030, whilst discussing the role of international partnerships for this year. EEG was thoroughly inspired to continue pushing for sustainable action and wishes IRENA the best of luck in its ventures ahead.

## Shaping a New Social Contract: UN DESA Fireside Chats

### Session 1

On **19<sup>th</sup> January**, EEG attended the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the monthly global policy dialogues held by UNDESA, under the theme, ‘Ensuring Equality, Inclusive Growth and Access to Opportunities’. This webinar featured in-house experts addressing some key questions relating to contemporary economic, social and environmental issues. The experts provided a brief overview of current strategies in place to curb global inequalities, and identified that COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the disparities between the Global North and the Global South.

The policies implemented for recovery must entail step-by-step provisions to accommodate those that have fallen back and specifically include provisions for universal education policies, equal labour market policies, investment towards promoting equality, strengthening social protection systems, and abating discrimination and prejudice. They also addressed the concerns about deploying digital technologies as part of the road to achieve a sustainable agenda. The Assistant Secretary General of UNDESA reminded the audience the significance of achieving a carbon neutral future, and invited stakeholders to join hands with UNDESA on this mission.

### Session 2

On **21<sup>st</sup> January**, EEG attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the dialogues, which was held under the theme, ‘Using Data and Statistics to Support the Climate and SDG Agenda’. The experts at this session drew attention to the linkages between the environment and the global economy and delved into the important accounts under climate change that need immediate attention, including air emissions, energy, carbon, and environmental subsidies.

The experts suggested that partnerships are key to a successful movement of climate action to incorporate climate into all aspects of development. The discussions emphasised on the need to accelerate climate protection among the vulnerable populations, to empower them before it is too late. The speakers touched upon strategies to improve the political will to enact green policies, forest management and land restoration, financing for climate change, flow of migrants, and collective initiatives to leave no one behind. They also specifically focused on the importance of data collection, management and sharing information regarding the issues and progress made in line with this issue. The session concluded with the speakers expressing hopes of a meaningful decade of action.

### EEG attends a UNEA workshop

On **20<sup>th</sup> January**, EEG attended a special capacity building and training workshop, to better understand the February 2021 United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.1), which will take place on **22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**. Organised by the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, the webinar helped participants navigate through the UNEA system, understand policy complexities and the political importance of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and the Programme of Works (PoW). UNEA-5 will be organised on the central theme - “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.” The meeting began with an overview of the UNEA-5 calendar as well as important background papers such as the Sustainable Development Report, the 2030 Agenda and IPBES. The attendees were also provided with a short summary of what UNEA is - as a central governing body of UNEP that has universal membership. It meets every two years, and its functions include:

Setting priorities for global environmental policy

Advising the UN system on environmental policy issues

Identifying new environmental challenges and examining existing practices

Organising dialogues with Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS)

Promoting partnerships on environment

UNEA-5 has been divided into two sessions (February 2021 and February 2022) due to the risk involved in meeting physically because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The agenda will, thus, be historically unique as UNEA 5.1 will be a 2-day online meeting and UNEA 5.2 will be 3-day in-person meeting. Thus, the online session will consider administrative and budgetary matters i.e., MTS, PoW and budget for the period 2022-2023 as well as an online leadership dialogue for Ministers of Environment and other high-level representatives on the contribution of environmental dimension of sustainable development to build a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world. The in-person meeting in February 2022, however, will consider the remaining substantive items as well as hold a high-level segment. The meeting ended with a summary of the MTS and PoW as well as an overview of reports including UNEP@50, Stockholm+50 and UNEP’s Coastal and Marine Strategy.



### 1<sup>st</sup> Subcommittee Meeting of CPR

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, EEG was invited to attend the first Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) for the year 2021. The meeting provided attendees with an overview on the preparation and regional readiness for two major events - the Food System Summit 2021 and UNEA-5, respectively. Apart from this, the UNEP Secretariat also discussed the Annual Report for UNEP's Private Sector Engagement.

The Food Systems Summit aims at maximising the core benefits of a food systems approach across the UN 2030 Agenda and meeting the challenges of climate change amongst other major challenges ahead of us. UNEP is looking to make this a 'People's Summit' as well as a 'Solutions Summit' by launching bold new actions to transform the way the world produces and consumes food, delivering progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The Summit will take place in New York in September 2021 in conjunction with the UN General Assembly. This will be preceded by a pre-Summit gathering in Italy in July 2021. Next, the Secretariat provided an outline of the Annual Report for UNEP's Private Sector Engagement, which began with UNEP's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with the private sector that included:

Assessing connections between health and biodiversity

Challenging policy, business, and finance communities

Sharing best practices, solutions and lessons learned

Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Finally, the meeting focused on the regional preparations for UNEA-5 as directors from the regional offices of Asia-Pacific, Africa, West Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America and the Caribbean Regions provided snapshots of their region's groundwork as well as readiness for stakeholder engagement for the high-level event next month.

## 13<sup>th</sup> January *An Environmental Publication the 'GREEN DEEN'*

On 13<sup>th</sup> January, the PenKin Group, a publication house based in India, reached out to EEG for a collaboration opportunity to help widen the distribution network for one of their recent publications, the 'Green Deen'. The book carries some powerful messages about the link between faith and environmentalism. Having perused through the book, EEG undertook the effort to help publicise and distribute the book to the non-Arabic speaking community in the UAE. This insightful book provides an Islamic perspective of environmental protection, and scrutinises some contemporary environmental issues such as overconsumption, sustainable architecture, energy consumption, green jobs, water pollution, sustainable agriculture, among various others.

The book is a must-read for environmental enthusiasts and responsible community members, as it provides a fresh take on environmentalism, one that connects environment to social justice through faith, and acts as a guide to save the planet and its people.

## 18<sup>th</sup> January *RIT Advisory Board Meeting*

On 18<sup>th</sup> January, EEG Chairperson attended the advisory board meeting of the Rochester Institute of Technology, Dubai, which hosted advisory board members from the Mechanical, Electrical, Business, Career and Graduate Studies departments. This meeting, which was simultaneously held virtually and in-person, was conducted in the university's new campus, and was focused on discussing collaboration opportunities. The meeting was welcomed by Dr. Yousef Al-Assaf, President of RIT Dubai, who expressed his hopes and visions for the university in the new campus. EEG wishes the university the best of luck as it continues to make significant strides in its new campus.

## 19<sup>th</sup> January *Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Strategy Virtual Meeting*

The Chairperson of the Emirates Environmental Group participated in a virtual GISD Strategy Group meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January. The Alliance regrouped to discuss latest developments and facilitate action plans to scale up investment in sustainable development through the creation of a set of deliverables. The GISD is eager to accelerate the flow of capital into emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs), where the need and SDG impact are the greatest. Research indicates that there is an investment gap as only 10% of the surveyed Assets Under Management (AUM), invested in Africa, the Middle East and South America.

Moreover, it was determined that long-term investors need to play a more active role in influencing companies towards decisions that are based on long-term sustainable development considerations. With this information, the GISD Alliance seeks to revise corporate governance and investor stewardship codes through an SDG lens.

An integral component of the meeting also included the objective of supporting the development and implementation of a clear set of SDG related metrics that can be widely adopted and integrated into existing frameworks. These metrics are needed if corporates are to partake in reporting information that Sustainable Development Investing (SDI) aligned investors require, and if investors are to construct portfolios aligned with the SDI definition.

Lastly, a coordinated effort between the GISD Alliance and the G20, G7 and major financial system bodies was emphasized. This would further encourage public sector alignment with the SDGs and scale sustainable finance.



## 19<sup>th</sup> Collaboration with University of Birmingham Dubai

January

As the building of the University of Birmingham's new flagship Russel Group University campus in Dubai Academic City continues to progress rapidly to completion and opening in September 2021, a meeting was held between EEG and University of Birmingham on 19<sup>th</sup> January. EEG Chairperson was delighted to provide her input, advise and discuss a wide range of issues including; methods of water management, energy usage, recycling facility within the campus, and engaging the students on hands-on activities that the university can utilise which would result in sustainability initiatives from setting up an environment-friendly campus. Planning the goal for the forthcoming campus, the university is keen to incorporate these methods and practices to achieve success of the campus and to give a significant importance to the environment. As EEG Chairperson shared her suggestions on the matter, she also gave consummate recommendations to achieve environmental and sustainable vision for the campus. Working together towards the next steps, the two entities are looking forward to a continuous collaboration and partnership in the upcoming months.

## WFES Webinar Series

1) On 19<sup>th</sup> January, EEG attended the World Future Energy Summit Back to Business Webinar "Restoring Focus on a Circular Economy in the Aftermath of Global Developments" via a virtual platform as part of Eco Waste Exhibition & Forum in association with Tadweer and BTS Biogas. The webinar boasted the presence of six panellists including Group CEO of Bee'ah, Dept. Director of Tadweer, Chief Executive Officer of BTS Biogas, Senior Sustainable Manager of Unilever and the Senior Advisor at InterBKonsult. The webinar looked at new value chains within waste, the benefit of recycling and the changing mind-set of looking at waste from an unnecessary material to dispose of to a valuable commodity. The session discussed strategies of integrating modern technology to improve the recycling and use of waste, ensuring minimisation of waste going to landfill while utilising these waste products to manufacture new products, leading to adoption of a circular economic model. The discussion provided the attendees with perspectives from both government and business sectors both locally and internationally. The discussions highlighted that the attitude towards waste is changing from a potential expense to a resource for potential revenue. These are through innovative new modes of using waste including, waste to energy, building consumer awareness, recycling post-consumer waste back into production line, digitisation, small scale independent biogas and energy plants vs large, decentralised vs centralised approach and including economic aspects of increasing income from waste and jobs.

2) EEG attended on 20<sup>th</sup> January, the World Future Energy Summit Back to Business Webinar "Stimulating Economies: Low carbon is 'Business as Usual' via virtual platform". The webinar witnessed the participation from five panellists including Cities & New Industries, Digital Transformation, HSBC, Green Touches, KAPSARC, Emirates Water & Electric Company and Carbon Trust. The webinar and the panellists discussed the increasing number of declarations by international companies to reduce their emissions and increase their goals to achieve net zero carbon emission. It tackled the question as to how government and companies play their part in achieving net zero.

They discussed the matters of reducing emission; planning and actions required; how can companies tackle scope 3 emission - which are the largest source of carbon emission and tend to be outside their control other than scope 1 and scope 2; green energy, sustainable finance, digital technology, digital twinning, and more. The webinar saw the perspective from energy organisation, oil, and gas industry, city and urban perspective, private company perspective, government perspective, financial perspective, and international bodies perspective. This holistic approach to this topic was very informative and educational. Points to take from the webinar include that time for talks are over, now is the time for action.

Currently in the energy sector in the region, there is a positive alignment between significant reductions in carbon emission while keeping a low-cost portfolio. In the UAE, by 2025, the emission rate will decrease from 43 million metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emission to 20 million metric tonnes partially due to the operation of nuclear power plants and increasing solar panel use. In the next 15 years, UAE aims to achieve 90% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> from desalination plants. Companies should take ownership of the integration of change to carbon net zero in multiple sectors as this will have an aggregate positive impact especially in cities. International bodies are now seeing increased active participation by companies to make this change by seeking guidelines and support.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Bottle to Bottle Recycling with Packaging MEA

January

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, EEG attended the first of Packaging MEA's series of webinars for 2021, on the topic, "Closing the Loop with PET: Bottle to Bottle Recycling". This webinar focused on the various questions related to packaging sustainably, and discussed the challenges, opportunities and methods to create a true circular loop for the PET bottle.

The keynote speaker at the meeting, the Director of Municipal affairs, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, threw some light on the Ministry's key targets towards sustainable development, as it strives to meet UAE's Agenda 2021. The Director of Green Ethics FZ LLC and coordinator for the CIRCLE Coalition presented some statistics about the status of recycling in the UAE, and highlighted the following challenges to recycling in the UAE: lack of segregation of wastes from source; inadequate infrastructure; lack of domestic demand for recycled content; and opportunity loss. The sales managers for Herbold GmbH and NGR GmbH shared the processes and equipment used by their respective companies, and explained the advantages of incorporating them.

In a panel discussion that followed, the speakers collectively identified that all entities of the value chain are responsible to start making a tangible difference to the recycling culture. The Senior R&D Sustainability Manager for Unilever NAMET used the Sunlight Project as an example to demonstrate how recycled products can be made financially viable projects using the right kind of incentives, subsidies, and marketing strategies. The speakers concluded that as brand owners, companies ought to bear the initial costs of recycling and wait for it to pay off until the full circular economy is achieved. EEG hopes to see affirmative action being taken to make the recycling culture of PET bottles in the UAE more sustainable.



## 20<sup>th</sup> January *The Launch of UAE Climate Change Research Network*

EEG attended on 20<sup>th</sup> January the virtual launch of the UAE Climate Change Research Network (CCRN). Under the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, this network brings together a group of committed climate scientists and researchers to facilitate dissemination of knowledge and advance development of research collaborations. Globally, climate research has been critical to understand short-term and long-term changes in temperature, sea level, precipitation, air quality, extreme weather events and other issues. With the launch of this research network, the UAE will do its part in contributing to research in climate change throughout the Arab region. The CCRN is also an instrument used to encourage collaboration between policymakers, research institutions and universities in the region. Using this collaboration, the UAE seeks to implement more research-based policies in the country and help diminish the impacts of climate change. EEG looks forward to work closely with the CCRN to help achieve its goals.

## 20<sup>th</sup> January *UN Food Systems Summit and High-Level Dialogue on Energy*

EEG Chairperson attended the Ministerial Meeting of the UN Food Systems Summit and High-Level Dialogue on Energy preparatory processes on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, as part of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). This meeting identified the potential areas of action in the food-energy-climate nexus, including initiatives, targets, policies, and plans of action, that could guide the outcomes of both the summits to be held in September, 2021. Featuring speakers from ministers of all regional groups, UN agency executives, major energy and agricultural companies, SMEs, and youth delegates, the meeting provided a holistic overview of how existing gaps in sustainable food production and recommendations for all stakeholders, as the global community progresses towards a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As each speaker represented a different entity of the global economy, the meeting provided a truly enlightening conversation and facilitated the exchange of ideas to enable meaningful action. The pandemic has widened the gaps in access to food and renewable energy, especially among LDCs, and this was one of the central ideas of the discussion.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> January *UNEP'S Gender Policy Survey*

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, EEG was invited by the UNEP to take a Stakeholders' Survey on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. In March 2019, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) at its fourth session adopted resolution 17 on Promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance (UNEA4 Res. 17). The UNEP was hence tasked with facilitating data collection disaggregated by inter alia, sex, age, and disability and lessons learned from the Member States and stakeholders on the progress made in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in global, national and local environmental policies, programmes and initiatives.

The survey featured questions pertaining to the gender policy in organisations, gender, age, and disability distribution of staffs and delegates, and sought recommendations from stakeholders regarding the same. EEG takes immense pride in its gender equality status, with our senior leadership comprising of a fully female force.

## 24<sup>th</sup> January *Meeting with the Australian Embassy*

EEG Chairperson at the invitation of the Australian embassy met virtually on 24<sup>th</sup> January with the Counselor - commercial and Trade Commissioner of the Australian Embassy and the Business Development manager to introduce EEG and the core foundation and function of the organisation. Envisioning the sustainable development and betterment of the environment as the main areas of focus for EEG, sharing the common aims, the discussion revolved around how can the two entities can synergise and work together in areas of mutual interest.

EEG Chairperson shared the programmes that the organisation undertakes, such as Waste Management programmes, Educational programmes and corporate outreach and capacity building. EEG's action programmes were also highlighted during the discussion, as the Australian Embassy was filled in on all these programmes and projects, an ensuing affiliation will soon follow from the two parties.

## 25<sup>th</sup> January *Dubai Chamber Interview Series*

EEG was invited to attend The Dubai Chamber Interview Series - an Interview with H.E. Khalfan Belhouli, CEO of Dubai Future Foundation on 25<sup>th</sup> January. The series has included live one on one interviews with esteemed local and international industry figures from the public and private sector to discuss current local and international business environments. In his discussion, H.E. Belhouli accentuated the need to adapt to the current changes and ongoing trends as this is a key enabler of Dubai's diverse economy. He mentioned that in order to seem attractive to global talents and investors and empower local ones, Dubai should encourage the testing of innovative and disruptive technologies. Moreover, regulators need to amend policies to promote and drive innovation in the country.

H.E. also stated that the Dubai Future Foundation seeks to work closely with government, private sector companies, international companies, start-ups, research centers, universities and other educational institutions to spread resilience and foresight. He also emphasized the need to empower government officials and decision makers with valuable skills and research driven knowledge, which would in turn help drive innovation in the UAE.



## 26<sup>th</sup> EEG Attends Meeting on PLE and Ecolabels

January

EEG attended on 26<sup>th</sup> January, the 3rd session on “Using Products Extension to Advance Circular Economy”. EEG suggested few ecolabels to be considered in previous meetings and communications that it had participated in last year. Key points discussed were the labelling initiatives currently implemented and how they address the issues of product lifetime. The meeting started with a brief of the labelling scheme and how ecolabels are addressing Product Label Extension (PLE) followed by detailed explanation of existing labels.

The Consumer Information Programme (CI-SCP) discussed how the revision of existing labels including terms such as product durability, product longevity, product reparability, obligatory warranty and more can be considered in eco labelling criteria. They showed a list of 22 labels being reviewed. The revisions included specifications such as clear distinction between durability, reparability, upgradability, re-use; which are not always evident and more often these are applied to electronic devices and households.

TCO Certified is a global sustainability certification from Sweden used by IT purchasers and industry to drive sustainability. They discussed their product categories, independent verification systems. The goal is towards circular IT to prolong the use of products, a new life for its key components, and new life for the materials used in the products and the challenges faced and key learning.

Long-time Label is the 1st European-Wide Label, aiming for products that are designed to last. Their approach targets the consumers, manufacturers, and the planet, to cover a wide range of products, reduce information asymmetry, to prevent wastage of resources, to provide guidelines and to promote responsibility and reward for durability.

Their Product Services Requirement complement the specification according to the product category to identify specific weaknesses and durability improvements. In addition they have independent control and auditing pilots with partnerships with control bodies. The representative ended with the challenges, lessons learned and need for more data from consumers and repairers.

The meeting was well informed and detailed and discussed various ecolabels that are being reviewed. This is the first meeting where non-members were allowed for discussions. EEG thanks the Working Group for the invite and looks forward to the update on the suggestions provided by all in the meetings.

## 27<sup>th</sup> EEG's 24<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

January

The 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting of EEG was held virtually on the 27th January, 2021. It was attended by the Board Members and Executive Committee Members of the EEG. After a brief Welcome Note & the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, the agenda including Educational Programmes, Waste Management Programmes, Special Projects, Corporate Awareness & Outreach Programmes, Regional & International Engagements, Finances, and Memberships were all discussed in detail. By the end of the meeting, the attendees had a clear perspective of EEG's strong contribution to the sustainable development of the UAE and across the globe in the year 2020. The board members were apprised of EEG's planner of programmes for this year and were urged to play an active role in its implementation. The meeting ended with several members expressing their satisfaction and appreciation of the meaningful and impactful work that is being carried out by EEG.

## One Root, One Communi-tree (Phase 1) kicks in again

The year 2020 has shown us the importance of preparedness, so why not join our hands to prepare our Earth for the next generations? As we are aware that the One Root...One Communi-tree is an action-oriented project (a combined waste management and an urban afforestation programme) that creates awareness among the participants and contributes to the reduction of GHG emissions and landfill space.

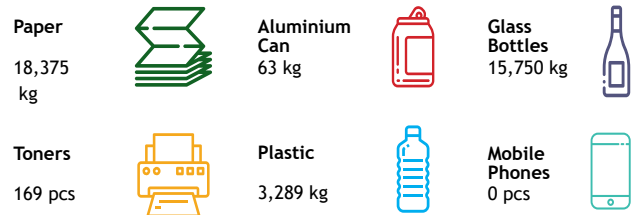
It also brings practicality by focusing our consumption habits and help reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions collectively. We invite all the sectors of the society to manage the recyclable waste and take a more sustainable approach. We invite you to achieve the targets and plant a sapling for the next generation.

The participants who achieve the target set by EEG in this phase will be awarded with a certificate and a native tree sapling to plant under their names on 21.12.21.

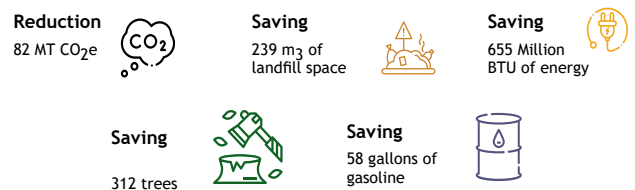
EEG invites individuals and entities to join the first phase of “One Root One Communi-Tree”, which was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 and concludes on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2021.

Register now to contribute to the protection and preservation of our environment. To participate, please register <https://forms.gle/kAgPAXWdEbWQ34k97>

### RECYCLABLES COLLECTED



### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



## The Environmental Drawing Competition

EEG is proud to announce the launch of the 15<sup>th</sup> cycle of its annual “Environmental Drawing Competition” Over the years, this competition has brought spectacular imaginations and ideas on canvas, showcasing creativity, knowledge and awareness on Environment amongst students, enthusiasts at varied level. This unique platform over the years has brought hope about sustainable living and has also cherished young minds with the vision for their future. If you ever need a morale boost, visit our EEG office and see the spectacular display of drawings from these enthusiastic minds. Though the academic institutes were closed for a period of time, their imagination was not. EEG cordially invites all its member students and UAE’s academic institutions to join in this spectacular color display competition. The participation is open to all government and private schools in the UAE and EEG’s student members. The winners will be invited to attend EEG’s Environmental Drawing Competition Awarding Ceremony on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 and awarded with prizes and certificates.

## The Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition

mirates Environmental Group (EEG) is proud to announce the roll out of the 21st cycle of the Annual Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition taking place on 21st & 22nd April, 2021. Over the years, The Annual Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition has served as a unique platform for students from different syllabuses to showcase their public speaking skills, to express their opinion on contemporary environmental issues and to propose innovative solutions to bring about positive change. Our competition is driven by arming the students with sound knowledge on sustainability issues which will be discussed during the course of these two days.

We cordially invite all the schools in our beloved country to come forward and participate in this knowledge exchange platform. To register kindly click the link - <https://forms.gle/cQhiBwhsMcoqk9Ka8>

## International News

### Waste-to-Energy, a Sustainable Solution to a Global Problem

As waste seems to be a continuing issue of global importance, many countries and cities around the world are working tirelessly to find suitable solutions, one such case is the province of Sindh, in Pakistan. It has managed to find an effective solution to this global problem. A waste management project has allowed the local government to generate electricity through renewable processes. When waste is managed sustainably, it has the potential to reduce the economic and environmental costs of over production and consumption.

A waste-to-energy project seeks to reduce these costs and proves to be a sustainable solution. In Karachi, 8,000 tonnes of solid waste is generated on a daily basis. According to the Sindh department of Energy, this amount of waste has the capacity to produce up to 200 megawatts of electricity as a renewable source of energy. By making waste a resource, the province of Sindh has taken a step forward to achieve the UN’s SDG #12, Responsible Consumption and Production as well as SDG #7, Affordable and Clean Energy for Pakistan.

This project aims to create public-private partnerships (PPP) for its execution and funding. Once completed, it will be the first of its kind in Pakistan.

## UN News



### The One Planet Summit 2021

The UN Secretary-General on 11<sup>th</sup> January at the One Planet Summit 2021 gave his remarks about 2021 being a year to reconcile humanity with nature. He spoke about how Covid left our planet in a devastating condition and how pandemic recovery is our chance to change course.

He spoke about innovations, smart policies and the right investments, that can chart a path that brings health to all, revives economies and builds resilience and rescues biodiversity. He emphasized that this year has begun under the sign of hope and together we could seize the opportunity to build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

UNCCD  
NEWS





## UNEP Launches The Adaptation Gap Report

UNEP NEWS

The United Nations Environment Programme launched on 14<sup>th</sup> January, the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Adaptation Gap Report. This report reviews and evaluates the progress achieved in planning for, financing and implementing adaptation, with a focus on nature-based solutions. The report defines adaptation as the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. The 2020 report finds that although nations have advanced in planning, there still remains large gaps in finance among developing countries and effective protection measures against climate impacts such as droughts, floods and sea-level rise. It provides recommendations that call for public and private finance, and faster implementation of adaptation projects. Nature-based solutions, which are locally appropriate actions that connect societal challenges to the environment, must also be made a global priority.

## Upcoming Events

### EEG 1<sup>st</sup> Panel Discussion

#### “Sustainability and Healthcare: The interrelation”

With the first wave and then the second wave, hide and Seek with the Covid-19 is very well known, unveiling the need for a sustainable healthcare system and our first panel discussion for the year 2021 revolves around the same. Covid-19 is the far most widely reaching public health crisis for the year 2020, significantly impacting every aspect of life and exposing fundamental weaknesses in healthcare systems in a number of countries. A sustainable healthcare system which emphasizes on quality, availability, reach, social and economic viability is vital. To address these issues our panel discussion will discuss on how healthcare is impacted by sustainability and how sustainability is involved in healthcare.

EEG invites all interested participants to register and attend the first Panel discussion, which will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2021.

To participate please register:

### Can Collection Day

This year EEG will mark its 25<sup>th</sup> cycle of Can collection Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. We invite all its members, supporters and volunteers to participate in its bi-annual Can Collection Day.

The year 2020 being an unprecedented year, still managed to collect 11, 674 kgs of Cans. With a new hope for the year 2021, we urge every participant from all sectors and entities in the UAE to come forward and join hands in our Can Collection Day. We together faced Covid as a Nation, now we request you all to fight together against all irresponsible disposal of waste.

All you have to do is collect as many Aluminium cans as possible from your house, your surroundings and your known locality. Come to your most convenient location and deposit your collection with us. Join us in this fight and be a part of on-going battle against global warming.

To participate, please register

## EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 4 renewed academic member, 6 new student members & 12 renewed student members in the month of January 2021

### ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

Gems New Millennium School, Al Khail	Renewal	Dubai National School - Al Barsha	Renewal
American School of Dubai	Renewal	Ambassador School	Renewal

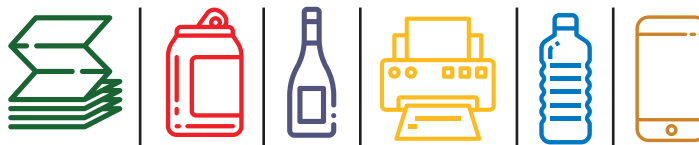
### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Bhavnish Murugan	New	Niel Anthony Benny	Renewal
Danielle Dewbre	New	Paveethiraa Manivelan	Renewal
Elizabeth Charlotte D'sa	New	Reet Oberoi	Renewal
Kshiteez Panigrahi	New	Sainath Manikandan	Renewal
Neha Sancheti	New	Tanish Murugan	Renewal
Preet Pannu	New	Tarak Malhotra	Renewal
Abhishek G. Pai	Renewal	P. Samanyu Varma	Renewal
Alina Abdul Kader	Renewal	Himakshi Shastri	Renewal
Anahad Kaur Hanspal	Renewal	Lavanya Kasturia	Renewal



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

- » GHG Reductions 214 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>)
- » Saving of 1,527 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 438 m<sup>3</sup> of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 881 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 119 Gallons of Gasoline



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 51,229 kg of Paper from 219 participants during the month of January 2021, a decrease of 41% compared to December 2020. We urge our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2021 to enable us to achieve our targets. The Top Collectors were:	Dubai National School	1,740	Madiha Javed	1,085
	Dubai Men's College	1,630	Abhinav Suresh	695
	Gems Modern Academy	1,495	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Abdulla Al Dhanhani	600
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 5,444 kg of Plastic from 107 participants during the month of January 2021 an increase of 3% compared to December 2020. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2021. The top collectors for the month were:	Abu Dhabi Men's College	300	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Abdulla Al Dhanhani	170
	School of Research and Science	290	Sai Vaishnavi Balaji	65
	Clarion School	160	Maryam Bin Hammad, Noor Khalid Bin Hammad & Rayan Khalid Bin Hammad (Tie)	50
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 16,911 kg of Glass Bottles from 34 participants during the month of January 2021, an increase of 263% compared to December 2020. We encourage our participants to collect more in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	American University of Sharjah	170	Mana Al Suwaidi	105
	Clarion School	10	Aashika Singh	90
	-	-	Sahervidya Kumar	54
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
EEG collected 92 kg of Aluminum Cans from 17 participants during the month of January 2021, a decrease of 50% compared to December 2020. The top collectors for the month were				
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
EEG collected 225 pcs of Toners from 12 participants during the month of January 2021, an increase of 18% compared to December 2020. We encourage our participants to be more active in the year 2021. The Top collectors were				
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
EEG has collected 12 pcs of Mobile Phones from 4 participants during the month of January 2021, a decrease of 95% compared to December 2020. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2021.				
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
EEG has collected 72 kg of E-waste from 2 participants during the month of January 2021. We encourage our participants to join this new project and help us achieve the targets set for the year 2021.				

