

EEG CORP NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



May 2021
Issue 05

From Textbook to Tech-Savvy: Understanding COVID's Impact on the Education System

2nd Panel Discussion

Date: May 19, 2021



Upcoming Events



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For more info, call EEG at 04 344 8622, or email eeg@emirates.net.ae - www.eeg-uae.org



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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

It is unbelievable how the months are flying; we are done with one 3rd of the year 2021 already. The World is yet to overcome the fight against the global pandemic, with cases skyrocketing in several parts of the world. Here in the UAE, the population continues to rush to gain immunity through the vaccine.

We thank the wise leadership of this country for ensuring the availability of different types of vaccines for the benefit and convenience of the society as a whole. We, at the Emirates Environmental Group are making an additional commitment and going to extreme lengths to inspire and urge the society to act responsibly and proactively towards environmental protection and preservation to enable us to achieve a sustainable development.

Aside from our ongoing attendance, involvement and contribution in various forums, panel discussions and webinars, we have managed to successfully conduct two of our most popular annual educational programmes; the 21st cycle of the annual 'Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition' and the 15th cycle of the 'Environmental Drawing Competition'. We also brought to fruition one of our well-known action ventures, Project 'Green Call'. (Read more on page 7)

Forming strong alliances and collaborating in the deliverables of programmes, discussions, projects and campaigns is critical for our work to enable us to forge ahead with our strategy and plan and to achieve sustainable targets.

EEG spoke at a conference, gave several presentations on its work to different corporations, conducted a workshop on "Green Office" and the month was also marked with the memorable planting of 150 saplings of native trees with UPS in commemoration of Earth Day on 22nd April. As the world grapples to make use of online platforms as a default means of communication, we have all continued to adapt to this ever-changing, technologically advanced world.

EEG made an appearance at the SDG Investment Fair under the theme, 'COVID-19 and beyond: Building forward by scaling long-term investment for sustainable development', on 13th & 14th April. The fair encourages direct informal cooperation among representatives of developing-country governments, the private sector and financial intermediaries to accelerate investment mobilisation for the SDGs. On the sidelines of the fair, EEG attended on 14th April the soft

launch of the SDG Investor Platform where it provides a space for users to browse business and investment prospects linked to relevant SDG metrics that have a positive impact, gain more insight from a prospective partner on the ground, and a knowledge Hub for SDG-enabling investment.

I highly recommend our readers and corporate members to learn more about these webinars under EEG news, as this will enlighten you and affect your future choices.

April was a month full of promise and improvement. Registrations for One Root, Communi-Tree, which we launched in January, are still pouring in, targets are being achieved and trees are being secured by entities and families.

I encourage the educational institutions and corporations to join this programme and take advantage of this inspiring platform to unleash the enthusiasm of their teams towards environmental protection and preservation. The phase one of this programme will conclude on the 21st of May, so don't miss out on an opportunity to make a positive impact.

We have several programmes lined up for the month of May, starting with our 2nd virtual panel discussion of the year which is scheduled to take place on 19th May under the title of "From Textbook to Text Savvy - Understanding COVID's Impact on the Educational System".

In this pandemic, we must do everything possible to encourage members of the public, especially students, to pursue education and learning.

As for our Community Programmes, keep a look out for Project "Recycle. Reforest. Repeat." and "Neighborhood Recycling Programme", please be active on our social media platforms to not miss out on the green opportunities that await you when achieving the set targets.

I will conclude by saying that we will be able to advance with this enormous commitment with your continuing encouragement and active participation. Working together is the only way to tend to the world in which we live in. What we stand for is what we stand on.



UNEP Engagements

In the month of April, EEG participated in a couple of UNEP engagements:

1) Anatomy of Action

EEG participated on a 15 day “Anatomy of Action (AoA)” social media challenge on 19th March that engaged organisations, global influencers and the public to encourage their communities to make sustainable lifestyle changes. The Anatomy of Action translates the science behind Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) into everyday actions for people and planet. Through a handful of lifestyle swaps, we can reset the way we live to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees and meet the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. We all eat food, buy stuff, spend money, move in our communities, and like to have fun. These are the 5 main Lifestyle areas where each human has an impact and where we can make choices to have a more positive impact on the planet! With this, the AoA separates lifestyles into 5 areas of action: food, stuff, move, money and fun based on scientific evidence. These 5 areas form part of our everyday living needs and lifestyle choices that hold the potential, if enough people swap their actions, to support the global changes we need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The hashtag #AnatomyofAction ended on 2nd April and recorded a reach of 4+ million, with 4,500+ social media posts and stories spanning countries all over the world.

2) PLANET UNPLUGGED DIALOGUE “Making Peace with Nature”

EEG virtually attended the Planet Unplugged “Making Peace with Nature” dialogue held by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on 20th April. The dialogue was held between the UN Secretary-General and the UNEP Executive Director on the first UNEP synthesis report “Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies” ahead of the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5).

The resulting synthesis communicates how climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution can be tackled jointly within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The report serves to translate the current state of scientific knowledge into crisp, clear and digestible facts-based messages that the world can relate to and follow up on. It starts by providing an Earth diagnosis of current and projected human-induced environmental change, by putting facts and interlinkages in perspective, including by using smart infographics. In building on this diagnosis, the report identifies the shifts needed to close gaps between current actions and those needed to achieve sustainable development. The analysis is anchored in current economic, social and ecological reality and framed by economics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By synthesizing the latest scientific findings from the global environmental assessments, the report communicates the current status of the world’s urgent issues and opportunities to solve them. After the Stockholm Conference in 1972, humanity’s environmental threats have increased in number and magnitude and they now constitute a global emergency. Although dealing with an emergency is difficult; this paper, *Making Peace with Nature*, illuminates a road to a prosperous future filled with new possibilities and opportunities.

GISD Engagements

EEG participated in a couple of engagements with GISD:

1) SDG Investment Fair

EEG virtually attended the 2021 SDGI Fair under the theme, ‘COVID-19 and beyond: Building forward by scaling long-term investment for sustainable development’, on 13th & 14th April. The objectives of the fair are to facilitate direct interaction between countries and investors, discuss critical policies and regulations that shape an attractive environment for SDG investment, and to provide space for discussion with representatives of the GISD Alliance on its work and deliverables.

Private financing and funding continue to be critical for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, which includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has added to the difficulties of increasing private spending.

The SDG Investment Fair promotes direct informal cooperation between members of developing-country governments, the private sector, and financial intermediaries in order to accelerate investment mobilization for the SDGs. Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, and Pakistan proposed portfolios of tangible sustainable development initiatives for private sector investment at the 2021 SDGI Fair. The country presentations included an opportunity for direct dialogue between government officials and prospective investors on project portfolios. The presentations acted as a jumping-off point for alliances with the aim of forming long-term and impactful relationships. Senior government leaders and technical experts gave presentations. Following that, the countries and delegates from the investment group engaged in an active dialogue.

2) SDG Investors Platform Soft Launch

On the margins of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and the SDG Investment Fair, the soft launch of the SDG Investor Platform was virtually held in which EEG attended on 14th April. This Platform provides a space where users can browse business and investment opportunities that are linked to specific SDG indicators which have positive impact, receive more information vis-à-vis a potential partner on the ground and a knowledge Hub for SDG-enabling investment. The SDG Investor Platform also serves as a knowledge-hub for SDG-enabling investment where many knowledge products live. These included SDG Impact Standards for Private Equity, Bonds and Enterprises, an online free Impact Management and Measurement

Training designed with Duke University, the GISD Navigator, and many others. UNDP’s SDG Impact, in partnership with the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, launched the SDG Investor Platform during a side event of the SDG Investment Fair 2021. Public and private stakeholders partook in a panel discussion and discussed how the market intelligence data - captured in the SDG Investor Maps and presented in the SDG Investor Platform - is useful for investment decisions while impacting the SDGs. The panel also highlighted new market building and facilitation activities to mobilize investment for sustainable development at scale.



5th
April

Innovative Cities in the context of Climate Change

EEG attended a virtual meeting on 5th April organised by the EU-GCC Clean energy technology network on the topic of “Innovative Cities in the context of Climate Change: Risk Management in Water and Energy Supply”. Discussed was the major role that cities play in climate change through their role at the nexus of food, water and energy consumption and being the focal point of human population. This also makes them more vulnerable to its impact and will have to adjust to this by implementing policies, strategies and invest in becoming more resilient. Multiple solutions were proposed and presented such as rooftop gardens and integrated water cycles for mitigation and photovoltaic panels for individual homes and decentralised energy production for adaptation and efficiency. Many examples of pilot projects were presented but restrictive policies and lack of funding as well as a lack of awareness makes a large scale implementation difficult. Even though the MENA and Mediterranean are already experiencing the impacts of climate change and the resilience building process is still slow in most countries. A true transition to a sustainable and smart city can only occur if all stakeholders work together with both a bottom-up and top-down approach backed up by proper financing and policies.

7th
April

Dubai Chamber 360 Dialogue

The Dubai Chamber for Commerce and Industry held a virtual discussion on the topic of the future of energy, on 7th April which the EEG attended. Invited were representatives of Siemens and ENGIE to have a dialogue and answer questions about the future of energy, especially in the UAE and the MENA region. The pandemic has accelerated the transition towards green energy production as it has given us a reminder of the consequences of our treatment of nature. The UAE and the countries around the Gulf rely on their oil and gas reserves for their GDP and economic growth which gave them an essential role in the global energy supply system. The potential of sunlight has been ignored too long by the region and solar energy would provide the region the opportunity to keep its role at the center of global energy supply. With the 2050 plan, the implementation of nuclear energy and the investment of infrastructure the UAE is taking a leadership role not only in the region but globally and other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman and Egypt are following the trend.

In addition to renewable energy production, the region also looks at the production of green hydrogen as the fuel of the future. The times are changing, consumers are increasingly informed about and place value on sustainability and companies which provide transparency and sustainable products will have an advantage in the market. Current leaders will have to lay the ground work for younger generations who will hopefully be even more ambitious and drive the change through innovative projects to a more sustainable future.

7th
April

Health Safety & Environment Forum

EEG chairperson attended the Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) Forum as a panelist on 7th April. The forum's goal is to navigate the most recent UAE regulatory reforms and comply with global best practices in order to provide an integrated HSE function that is suitable for the present environment. The keynote speaker, OSH Expert from the Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation, shed light on the significance of this forum as a platform that included leaders from diverse sectors and service providers in the HSE domain. Furthermore, the OSH Expert mentioned that the conference is an excellent opportunity for safety experts and organisations to learn about emerging technologies, problems, and solutions.

The Forum covered multiple major headlines including ‘Exclusive Regulatory Updates’, ‘Best Practice Post COVID-19’, ‘Sustainability, Digital Transformation’, ‘Working in Hazardous Environments’ and ‘Transformative Technologies’. Under ‘Sustainability’, the EEG chairperson was keen to speak on ‘Accelerating the Transition to Sustainability’. She ventured into the methodology, criteria, and support required for facilitating the UAE's transition to sustainability. Towards the end, an emphasis on the need for policies for both innovation and overhauling of existing systems was highlighted for the transition to take place. Policy can include a diverse set of players in order to foster social acceptance, promote learning-by-using and forge supportive business coalitions.

12th
April

Electric Vehicles in the UAE: Challenges and Opportunities

EEG virtually attended on 12th April, a webinar on ‘Electric Vehicles in the UAE’ and the white paper launch under the title ‘Electric Vehicles in the UAE: Challenges and Opportunities’ organised by the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), a non-profit body devoted to advancing clean energy technologies and solutions.

In early 2019, the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) formed a working group called the Future Mobility Club (FMC) to assist the UAE's transition to sustainable mobility. The FMC's goal is to help the UAE and the broader Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) to grow and move to a green and smart mobility market, as well as to encourage the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs).

The webinar and white paper are programmes under the working group which aim to raise awareness on all levels about EV development by collaborating with relevant stakeholders, both from the private and public sectors. The paper examined the existing void in the growth of EVs in the UAE. It also rendered policy recommendations for policymakers in the UAE and in the region, as well as provided a detailed analysis of the UAE's EV sector, including the existing policy landscape, infrastructure, barriers to market development and opportunities for companies. Furthermore, the webinar discussed the landscape of the electric vehicle market in the UAE and the challenges and opportunities faced.



15th - 16th April *World Circular Economy Forum*

EEG attended the World Circular Economy Forum on a virtual platform hosted by the government of the Netherlands and the Finish Innovation Fund Sitra on 15th & 16th April. The forum consisted of multiple dialogues between entrepreneurs, governments' representatives, international and national organisations and youth representatives on the topic of circular economy, why it can help achieving the SDGs and combat climate change and how it can be implemented. The linear economic model has run its course and needs to change. It is responsible for over 50% of Green-house-Gas emissions and for 90% of the biodiversity loss. However, this will take time and will require actions on a multitude of fronts. First and foremost, there must be change of perspective. Waste should be seen as an opportunity and a resource. Second, a change in behaviour as consumers to reuse more and consume less must be initiated. Third, governments have to take actions, include the circular economy in their National Determined Contributions (NDC) and implement the right policies to encourage reuse and recycling and incentivise the production of products which are made sustainably and can be reused and recycled. A circular economy brings with it the opportunity of new markets and jobs and it therefore also a sensible economic route. The youth of the world is pushing this issue hard and should be included at the table of policy makers to ensure, that their ideas are heard as it is their future that will be decided upon.

18th April *UPS Tree Planting*

In commemoration of Earth Day, EEG was set to demonstrate its extended passion and motivation for the protection of the environment while engaging the community. With sharing focused efforts on community safety, equity and inclusion, the environment and volunteerism, UPS joined and lent a helping hand to assist in the creation of stronger, more resilient and sustainable society. EEG is pleased with UPS's support and contribution to plant 150 native trees on 18th April under the umbrella of "For our Emirates We Plant". The collaborative effort of planting trees benefits humans, animals and the environment. Concerted efforts are required to combat desertification and stop deforestation; we need to put back what we're taking away. By planting more trees, we are contributing to global efforts towards reforestation, restoring lost forests, repairing damaged ecosystems and mitigating climate changes. This will in-turn lead to a greener, healthier tomorrow, however, the community must join hands to realise this dream. By planting native trees, we are working to create a better future and we will be able to solve local, international and global environmental concerns together. With the conclusion of this tree planting, EEG has managed to successfully plant and oversee the planting of 2,100,939 native trees since the inception of this programme in 2007.

19th April *Green Office Presentation for Tate and Lyle*

EEG conducted a Green Office Presentation for the company, Tate and Lyle, on 19th April as part of the Group's corporate outreach programme. EEG routinely conducts informative seminars and events for companies as an organisation that is proud to incorporate a holistic approach to stakeholder participation. The purpose of this kind of presentation is to improve attitudes towards waste reuse and recycling. An effective way to do so is through means of education and awareness-raising about the causes and consequences of waste disposal and highlighting the importance of waste prevention, reuse and recycling. Effective communication is essential for the efficient operation of waste management services. Corporates need to know what services are available for them and the schedule and requirements of that service, in order for those services to be efficiently used. Corporates are also more likely to undertake waste sorting and recycling activities if they know what happens to waste that is sent for recycling and the associated environmental benefits. EEG believes that by educating and raising environmental consciousness and promoting community action, we will be able to overcome many of the planet's ecological issues.

19th April *Young Voices of Arabia – The 2020 Collection Publication*

An outstanding book featuring a selection of stories written entirely by the young champions of the first Voices of Future Generations competition for the Arab Region was unveiled. The anthology, Young Voices of Arabia, contains twenty winning stories—ten originally published in Arabic, ten in English—all of which were influenced by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The wonderfully created collection, illustrated by artists from the UAE, has been translated, and all stories are now available in both languages. What adds more beauty to this book is how it is made. It is printed on wood-free paper and in a size that minimises paper waste as a means of being considerate of the publication's environmental impact. "I am so proud of all the children who have their stories included in this book. They have worked hard to visualise how we can improve the way we live and create a better world... It is my great pleasure to see these children blossom both as writers and as advocates for sustainability through this initiative." H.H. Sheikha Hissa bint Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum said, the Goodwill Ambassador for Voices of Future Generations in the Gulf Region and Emirates Literature Foundation. EEG chairperson is honoured to receive this wonderful piece of work that captivates and promotes children's rights and sustainable development penned down via story telling.

20th April *National Newspaper Interview*

EEG chairperson was interviewed by The National Newspaper under the title 'Discarded Face Masks' on 20th April. Environmentalists have raised concerns about the significant harm that discarded face masks and gloves are inflicting on the environment. More than a year since the beginning of pandemic; these nasty and unsightly items are turning up on our highways, in the oceans and in landfills, endangering wildlife and aquatic life. EEG chairperson shared her voice on this current nightmare. "All of these items must be properly discarded in a closed dustbin," said the chairperson. "Unfortunately, due to its light weight, it tends to fly around in the wind. If a dustbin is not closed, it can tend to take flight and spread around. They do end up in the ocean and, in the case of the UAE, the desert. This is not good for the wildlife, which often feed on tiny plastic" she added. EEG has been working tirelessly for three decades to inform the public and raise its awareness about the risks of inappropriately dumping waste objects. During clean-up drives, Emirates Environmental Group members and volunteers come across PPE and other materials on a daily basis. "Often these items we find in the desert are discarded during picnics and family outings. People do tend to carelessly discard a variety of manmade objects in the desert, which never work well in nature and on the wildlife," the chairperson said. While we continue to wear face masks to protect ourselves, EEG urges the public to use reusable cotton masks rather than disposable ones to help conserve resources and reduce the amount of waste.



20th April *Nordic Report “Strengthening the Global Science and Knowledge Base to Reduce Marine Plastic Pollution”*

EEG attended the launch of the Nordic Report “Strengthening the Global Science and Knowledge Base to Reduce Marine Plastic Pollution” on a virtual platform on 17th April. States are on the brink to start negotiations on a global agreement on plastic pollution. In this context, scientists, policymakers and stakeholders voiced requests for strengthening and improving the knowledge base. These requests often include demands for a scientific advisory mechanism or body that operates as two-way interface between science and policy and that informs policy- and decision-making in the global combat against plastic waste in the oceans and the need for a life cycle approach to marine plastic pollution that covers all stages in the plastics life cycle.

The report makes the case for a global scientific mechanism on marine litter and microplastics and discusses the conditions to make it work effectively and to enable it to strengthen the global science and knowledge base on marine litter and microplastics.

The report’s ultimate aim is to inform policymakers and stakeholders that seek to establish an effective global scientific mechanism on marine litter and microplastics. It does so by

1. Providing policymakers and stakeholders with arguments for the establishment of a global scientific mechanism on marine litter and microplastics; and
2. Generating insights into key requirements, specific design features and institutional options of effective science-policy interfaces.

26th April *Panel Discussion: A Rational Financial Market? Debunking Myths about Investments, Risks and Women-led Businesses*

EEG digitally attended on 26th April a Panel Discussion titled: “A Rational Financial Market? Debunking Myths about Investments, Risks and Women-led Businesses” it was co-hosted by Sweden and UNCDF. An advisory panel of investment and industry leaders provided input on emerging issues and suggestions for strategies at this event on how to ensure that evidence and analysis to inform ongoing efforts to invest in women-led companies and funds. The objective of the event was to address dominant perspectives and unconscious bias that constitute barriers for women’s economic empowerment, linked to raising capital for business and funds; highlight the challenges faced by women-led businesses and investment firms in attracting Limited Partners (LPs) into their funds; and offer concrete suggestions for actors across the investment spectrum to improve the situation. This event aided in the creation of a Swedish network of female investors and encouraged Swedish wealth owners to spend further in women-led companies and firms.

26th April *What’s behind the deal? Innovative trade tools to increase the sustainability and transparency of global value chains*

EEG attended on 26th April a webinar organised by the One Planet network. The webinar talked about the changing landscape of trade and how innovative trade tools can foster more sustainable outcomes along the value chains. The past several decades have seen an increase in the interconnectedness of global economies through the expansion of global value chains, often accompanied by an increasing consolidation of these value chains which has led to fewer, larger entities dominating individual stages of global value chains. These same entities control more and more stages across entire commodity value chains, from production to trading and processing. This increasing consolidation means that the provisions in trade agreements, and the trade tools used to implement them, have massive downstream effect issues such as natural resource extraction, biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change. The topics that are discussed during the webinar are the changing trade landscape and approaches to increase the sustainability of global value chains, Voluntary Sustainability Standards: Building back better in the food value chain, Standards Map: Using technology to increase the traceability of products along the value chain, and Overcoming fragmentation: Increasing the competitiveness of small producers in Honduras. Experts from international organisations, civil society and research institutes explored trade tools which can thrust sustainability into trade agreements, and in doing so provide ripple effects outwards towards both the production and consumption ends of various global value chains.

EGBC Board Meeting

EEG Chairperson, a co-Founder and Board Treasurer of Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) recently attended a board meeting organised by EmiratesGBC. The discussion revolved around the organisation-wide policies, the overall business strategy, Finances, Memberships, EGBC Women’s network, the Indoor Environment Quality and Indoor Air Quality school study that was published in the month of March that supports the vision of the Emirates Coalition for Green Schools to ensure every child in the UAE learns in a green school. The report, ‘Making UAE Schools Healthy: In-depth Measurement of Indoor Air Quality’ highlights the need to enhance schools’ indoor environment by taking into consideration not only the air quality but also factors such as lighting, acoustics and thermal comfort. The study is part of the ongoing activities of the Emirates Coalition for Green Schools, which promotes discussions on creating a national vision of healthy, high performance schools that are conducive to learning while saving energy and resources cost-efficiently. The Responsible Construction training programme was also touched upon during the meeting whereby developing and implementing a pilot programme for Worker Welfare Training which will be focused on Socially Responsible Construction Labour Practices & Worker Financial Capability. EmiratesGBC annual Awards and Congress for the year was also discussed and the board members were urged to play an active role in its enactment.



Green Call

We are in the 2nd year of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's important to acknowledge that we live in a new and unfamiliar reality. With individuals and families making difficult and often necessary changes to the way they live and consume for the benefit of their safety and wellbeing, often time overlooking the environmental angle. The current scenario calls for urgent and robust waste management methods and for us to begin to reshape how we think of and deal with waste. Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to help recognise, and celebrate, the importance of recycling in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet. In commemoration of Global Recycling day, EEG rolled out the 6th cycle of the one month "Green Call" Project on 21st March to ensure an environmentally sound recycling process and that potentially toxic materials are disposed of in a safe manner. The programme was open to all sectors of society, including students, business organisations and academic institutions to participate in the collection of mobile phones, iPads or tablets respectively until 21st April. EEG encouraged its participants and the wider community to control and reduce their e-waste in order to reduce the resultant environmental impacts, stressing the importance of the circular economy. A total of 38 participants dropped off their collections, totaling 1,630 pieces of e-waste. With the efforts of everyone together, a total of 57 trees will be planted on 21.12.21.



Empowering Women to join the Field of Sustainable Development

Women in the UAE have made significant contributions to the progress of the UAE's sustainable development goals by forming the environmental discourse, designing renewable energy technologies, and understanding the construction of smart cities, among other things. On this occasion, Hia Magazine conducted an interview with EEG chairperson that was published in its April issue. An outline of the Group's most significant accomplishments over the past 30 years since its inception was uncovered. The most remarkable achievement, according to the chairperson, was instilling the practice of recycling in members of the society who voluntarily participated in EEG's recycling programmes and incorporated it into their everyday lives. This, in turn, contributed to making it part of the social culture of the society for the betterment of the environment.

The chairperson also shared the Group's well-known waste collection and recycling campaigns including 'One Root, One Communi-Tree', 'Clean-up UAE', 'Recycle. Reforest. Repeat' and 'Neighbourhood Recycling Programme'. EEG is committed to enhance sustainable practices and minimise the accumulation of waste in the UAE. In light of arming young minds with knowledge on sustainability and foster their responsibility, observance and awareness, the chairperson also shed light on EEG's strong structured educational programmes. Educating and inspiring the future generation about environmental protection and preservation are crucial for sustainable development. These qualities in turn empower the youth of the UAE, the backbone of the nation, to adapt long-lasting and persistent environmentally friendly practices to be carried into adulthood. The chairperson showed strong faith in the country's efforts to become a global hub and a successful model of the new green economy, to enhance the country's competitiveness and sustainability and preserve its environment for future generations. The chairperson was also proud to share with Hia Magazine the establishment of EmiratesGBC Women's Network by its sister organisation the EmiratesGBC in support of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality). The Network is dedicated to the empowerment of women in the field of green buildings and sustainable development in the UAE and the wider MENA region. The EmiratesGBC Women Network is a platform for knowledge-sharing, networking and mentoring as well as for celebrating the positive female role models in the industry today.

Corp News

Congratulations DEWA

EEG would like to congratulate its associate member, DEWA, for winning the Hamdan bin Mohammed Programme for Government Services for Best Government Initiative award for its 'Smart Living' initiative on 17th April. The Smart Living initiative supports the UAE's efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, especially Goal 7: 'Affordable and Clean Energy' and Goal 12: 'Responsible Consumption and Production.' It also aligns with the Dubai Demand Side Management Strategy 2030, which aims to reduce 30% of energy and water consumption by 2030. Over five years, the initiative will save 179.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and 67.7 million gallons of water. This is equivalent to reducing 15,643 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.

EEG warmly welcomes its new corporate member, Anaaishi Ventures!

Anaaishi Ventures is a newly established pioneer in the plastic recycling industry in the GCC. With a decade of experience in various areas of recycling services in India, they are expanding across the globe with a motto of "Empowering Recycling Globally". Established in 2019 in the Emirates of Dubai, the firm has profoundly shown its success and great efforts in the plastic recycling industry. They drive to deliver solutions with an expertise in recycling industry with their state of art facility to achieve a sustainable environment for all. Their commitment has led them to continuous growth and support from international environmental organisations. In a short span of time, their association with the biggest waste management facilities in the region reflects their vision to Empower Recycling for a healthy & safe environment.





UNCCD: Earth Day 2021

"Earth Day 2021 has a starkly simple message: we must make 2021 a pivotal year in efforts to Restore our Earth and build back better from COVID-19. Building a climate resilient and net-zero world must go hand in hand with recovering from the economic effects of a global pandemic." - Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary

Humanity has now caused the concentration of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere to rise 50% higher than before the Industrial Revolution. A recent research suggests that just 3% of the world's land remains ecologically intact, and many scientists warn that we are in the midst of the planet's sixth great extinction. Restoring our planet requires decisive action and ambition on many interlocking issues: addressing climate change, dialling back on consumption, and restoring our land and ecosystems to health. That's why the UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will be launched in June, on World Environment Day.

[Click for more](#)

Designers for the Future Competition

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced on 26th April that UNEP West Asia's Sustainable Fashion Programme will launch a competition, "Designers for the Future Competition", with its regional Goodwill Ambassador, Rami Kadi, and regional magazine, Jamalouki. This competition aims to highlight the ability to create innovatively while remaining environmentally friendly and embracing a circular mindset. The leftover material provided by the fashion house will symbolize circularity and exemplify how excess products can be re-inserted into production. This activity will serve as an opportunity to showcase regional talent that champions sustainability and creativity. The prize winner will be rewarded by attending the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), an internship, or assistance from the Rami Kadi house, and a feature in one of Jamalouki's future issues.



Transforming crop and timber production could reduce species extinction risk by 40%

A species threat abatement and restoration (STAR) metric was developed to quantify the contributions that abating threats and restoring habitats in specific places offer towards reducing extinction risk. They found that removing threats to wildlife from crop production would reduce global extinction risk across by 24%. Ending threats caused by unsustainable logging globally would reduce this by a further 16%, while removing threats associated with invasive alien species would bring a further 10% reduction. The STAR (Species Threat Abatement and Restoration) metric can also be used to calculate the benefits of restoration: global extinction risk could potentially be reduced by 56% through comprehensive restoration of threatened species' habitats. These results were generated using a new metric which, for the first time, allows business, governments and civil society to assess their potential contributions to stemming global species loss, and can be used to calculate national, regional, sector-based, or institution-specific targets. The work was led by the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Post-2020 Taskforce, hosted by Newcastle University (UK), in collaboration with scientists from 54 institutions in 21 countries around the world.

[Click for more](#)

EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 2 new corporate members & 2 renewed corporate members,
1 renewed associate member in the month of April 2021

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Anaishi Ventures General Trading LLC	New	Tiger Profiles & Insulation LLC	Renewal
Pernod Ricard Gulf FZE	New	Enova Facilities Management Services LLC	Renewal

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Emirates Global Aluminium	Renewal
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The collection of materials for recycling in the month of April resulted in the following benefits:

- » **GHG Reduction 273 (MTCO₂)**
- » **Saving of 1,918 Million BTU of Energy**
- » **Saving of 509 m³ of Landfill Space**
- » **Saving of 2,499 trees from being felled**
- » **Saving of 5,798 Gallons of Gasoline**



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Individuals	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 66,982 kg of Paper from 181 participants during the month of April 2021, a decrease of 21% compared to March 2021. 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:	Kier Construction	5,490	Preet Panu	1,410
	Serco Middle East- Qusais	4,255	Lacksana Karthikeyan	1,315
	Fabtech International Ltd	2,560	Vidyuth Balaji	1,230
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Individuals	Quantity (kg)
EEG collected 66 kg of Aluminum Cans from 23 participants during the month of April 2021, a decrease of 62% compared to March 2021. The top collectors for the month were:	Tryp by Wyndham Dubai	15	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Abdulla Al Dhanhani & Hassan Abdulla Hassan (Tie)	2
	Delta Hotels by Marriott	8	-	-
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Individuals	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 6,642 kg of Plastic from 113 participants during the month of April 2021 an increase of 10% compared to March 2021. 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:	Abela & Co Al Aweer	582	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Abdulla Al Dhanhani	210
	Abela & Co Jabel Ali	455	Aeysha Khalid Bin Hammad & Sara Khalid Bin Hammad (Tie)	85
	The Oberoi Beach Resort Al Zorah	427	Gauri Unnikrishnan	60
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Individuals	Quantity (kg)
EEG collected 57 pieces of Toners from 4 participants during the month of April 2021, a decrease of 81% compared to March 2021. We encourage our participants to be more active in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	Waldorf Astoria Hotel Ras Al Khaimah	18	Dr. Radiya Al Hashimi	23
	Arup Gulf	15	-	-
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (Kg)	Individuals	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected 1,657 pieces of Mobile Phones from 43 participants during the month of April 2021, an increase of 250% compared to March 2021. We thank our participants for supporting us and we encourage them to be active in the collection of this valuable material in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	Abela & Co Al Aweer	119	Shivani Adduri	105
	AG Engineering Dubai	112	Bhakti Venkatesh Hegde	75
	Luxury Goods Gulf LLC	102	Dheer Baldua & Dhruvi Baldua (Tie)	62
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (Kg)	Individuals	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 5,410 kg of Glass Bottles from 51 participants during the month of April 2021, a decrease of 46% compared to March 2021. We urge our participants to support us and encourage them to continue collecting in the year 2021 to help us achieve our targets. The Top collectors were:	Waldorf Astoria Hotel Ras Al Khaimah	660	Kashvi Verma	208
	Monviso Trading	480	Dave C Pais	198
	Delta Hotels by Marriott	370	Anu Janardhan	195
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (Kg)	Individuals	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 182 kg of E-waste from 5 participants during the month of April 2021, an increase of 279% compared to March 2021. We thank our participants and encourage them to continue collecting in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	McDonald's	143	-	-
	Budenberg Middle East	28	-	-
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Companies	Quantity (Kg)	Individuals	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 40 kg of Scrap metals from 1 participant during the month of April 2021, an increase of 900% compared to March 2021. We encourage our participants to put more effort and to join this new programme. The Top collector was:	McDonald's	40	-	-

