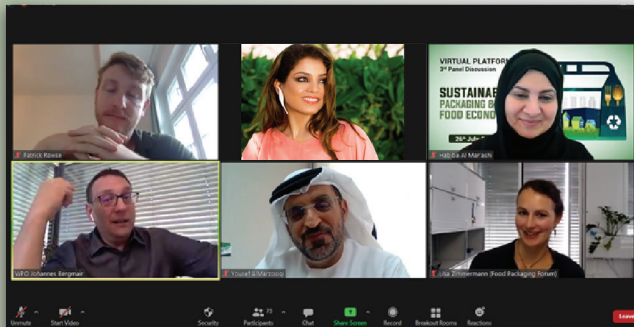


VIRTUAL PLATFORM

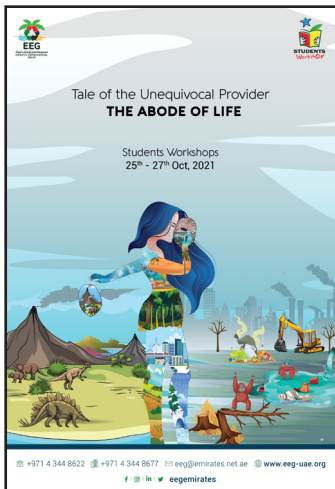
3rd Panel Discussion



SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING & THE FOOD ECONOMY



Upcoming Events



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



EDITORIAL TEAM:

Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Mariella Gaspar,
Varun Vishnu Prasad, Shamsa Thani,
Carlo Cuarto, Jipson Joy, Priyanka Menon,
Mohit Krishna, Nayana Raghunath

DESIGNED BY:

Harris Laluan



Habiba Al Mar'ashi

The 7th month of the year has come and gone. The intense summer month holds different meanings for many. While the students are enjoying their break from school, EEG had a multitude of engagements and projects that kept everyone busy. The goal of environmental sustainability has no pause button.

This year people across the world, have witnessed first-hand the impact of climate change, from the flash floods to forest fires and the extreme heat waves and rising temperature across the globe. It is time to unite and collaborate on both local and international scale.

Collaborations are one of the best ways to tackle these challenging issues. As our esteemed reader, you will see exactly how EEG is doing that as you read this month's newsletter. We have attended over twenty events/webinars/collaborations, excluding the successful completion of several of EEG's programmes.

I am delighted to share with you that the popular one-month long project "Recycle. Reforest. Repeat" has come to a fruitful conclusion on 21st of July. The project that started to highlight the importance of combating desertification has brought participants from all sectors of the society since its inception in 2017.

Living in a country with vast arid lands and desert habitat, it is vital for everyone to understand the challenge faced by many countries over the increasing expansion of lands that are degraded or has lost their biological productivity. Many people are forced to leave their homelands due to this exact reason and the ever-present droughts.

I am very grateful for all the two hundred plus entities that participated in this project and contributed in tackling the issue and helping the urban afforestation efforts conducted by EEG.

On the other hand, the two other recycling projects "Neighbourhood Recycling Project" and "One-Root, One Communi-tree" are progressing wonderfully and are open for participation till the end of September and November respectively. I invite everyone who reads my note to participate and encourage friends, families, peers and neighbours to participate and make an impact in the world. While recycling is an important aspect of achieving sustainability and a circular economy,

it is equally important to learn the latest news and sustainable innovations. This is done through collaborations and discussions. The pandemic has highlighted many new norms and habits that we have adapted to including remote learning, working and the use of online platforms.

To learn statistics and understand the environmental impact of these latest trends, EEG conducted its third-panel discussion on the 26th of July under the topic "Sustainable Packaging & the Food Economy". I was thrilled to welcome speakers from both local and international entities, who passionately shared their views, statistics, concerns and innovations in this field. I thank all the attendees and the speakers for coming together to discuss the same. Everyone who attended learned a great deal. Read more on page 7.

EEG as one of the leading environmental NGOs in the region has accreditation and membership with several United Nations bodies. We take pride in contributing to international bodies and collaborating with various entities to discourse, participate and attend their relevant workshops.

Only through these partnerships and forging ties can we address the immediate and long-term solutions to environmental challenges that we as species must face. I welcome you to read through the articles under the "EEG News" section and understand the immense work we do as an environmental entity and learn about the fruits of our labour, that are an outcome of participating in these programmes.

It seems hard to believe, but there are only five more months remaining in the year 2021. Time is moving fast. These five months will be intensive for EEG with many projects and programmes in the pipeline. Although I look forward to sharing this news with all of you, I believe the best way to learn and contribute is through the active participation and first-hand experience.

Therefore, I eagerly await the participation of all of you in EEG's upcoming events and to help us conclude this year with a great outcome. Working together and contributing your share is the only way that we can truly make a lasting and sustainable impact.



UN Engagements

In the month of July, EEG participated in several UN engagements:

1) EEG attends Nairobi event to Combat Marine Litter & Plastic Pollution

On 6th July, EEG attended the online launch event of the Nairobi Group of Friends (NGoF) to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. Organised by the Permanent Missions of Chile and Portugal in Nairobi, the NGoF aims to address the issue of marine pollution and support ambitious actions at UNEA - 5 in 2022. The meeting was opened by the Executive Director of UNEP who said that the solutions were at our fingertips and with accelerating political will, it is now the time to turn the tide on marine litter and plastic pollution. Attendees were provided with an overview of problematic plastics through a 2016 study that provided statistics on the share of each of them: microplastics (11%), multi-layer plastics (26%), flexible mono-material (46%) and rigid mono-material (17%). Next a panel discussion was initiated that witnessed high level presentations on the following:

1. Background of the problem and AHEG main conclusions
2. Synergies with a potential draft resolution to be considered at the resumed session of UNEA-5
3. Work and synergies with the New York Group of Friends to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution
4. How to address marine litter and plastic pollution to achieve the SDGs
5. Conclusion of preparatory meetings and lead up to the Ministerial Conference
6. "Breaking the Plastic Wave", findings of the research study
7. Reflections on existing legal gaps

2) SDG #12 Hub Virtual Launch

EEG attended the virtual launch of the SDG HUB on 7th July organised by the One Planet Network as part of their High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. The SDG12 Hub is a new tool to support Member States in the achievement of SDG #12. It is the central location for accessing official government reporting against SDG #12 indicators and includes all information needed for the official monitoring and reporting on these. In an effort to streamline methodologies and processes, The SDG12 Hub was developed by UN agencies tasked with implementing the SDGs. The event focused on presenting the SDG12 Hub as a key effort in making progress on SDG #12 transparent and accessible, promoting its implementation through existing communities of practice, and informing voluntary national reviews, international programming, and national policy processes. Additionally, the SDG #12 is promoted through existing communities of practice and informs voluntary national reviews, international programming, and national policy processes. During the roundtable, the participants discussed the need to track SDG #12 and the importance of accessible and transparent data for national policy development, as well as the potential of the SDG12 Hub as a tool for guiding national interventions for UN SDG #12.

3) EEG attends 3rd informal workshop on the implementation of UNGA resolution 73/333

On 7th July 2021, EEG attended the third and final informal workshop on the implementation of the UNGA resolution 73/333 entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277". It provided a platform for discussions on international environmental law and means of implementation. For this final workshop, the co-facilitators set out the following questions as discussion points for the delegates:

1. Which building blocks under titles "Environmental law is essential for the protection of our planet" and "Accelerating and facilitating action and implementation at all levels" expand current mandates or fall outside the scope of resolution 73/333?
2. What are the benefits of international environmental law when it comes to protecting the environment?
3. What are the opportunities that exist for making full use of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme in order to increase Member States' capacity building for implementing environmental law?
4. What assessment tools, including environmental performance review, would help Member States in advancing the environmental agenda?
5. How can Member States make optimal use of existing financial mechanisms and funds for implementing the international environmental law and improving the status of the global environment?

These three highly informative workshops were well organised and facilitated by the UNEP secretariat. We look forward to actively participating in the work of the Bureau and CPR in the future too.

4) Subcommittee Meet - UNEP

EEG virtually attended a subcommittee meeting held by the UNEP on July 8th 2021. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal, opened and chaired the meeting, which provided updates about various projects that are underway. The subcommittee provided an update on the preparations for the Food Systems Summit, in particular the pre-Summit that was held in Rome from 26 to 28 July 2021. In their report, the Secretariat and members of the Global Environment Outlook Steering Committee provided an update on the Future of GEO process and outlined some of the key findings from the interim report as well as the main elements of a feasibility study on financial, administrative and collaborative arrangements for GEO. An update was given on the road to Kunming CBD COP15, UNEP's new MTS and Beyond. The update covered activities to promote action for biodiversity and the on-going negotiations towards adoption of the new Global Biodiversity Framework. The Secretariat of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) briefed on the report "Lessons in Multilateral Effectiveness: Pulling together - the multilateral response to climate change".

5) Green Recoveries for a Job-Rich Future

EEG attended a virtual webinar on Green Recoveries for a Job-Rich Future on 9th July organised by UNEP. This initiative is designed to increase demand for green jobs in the workforce and help create a stronger supply of necessary green and environmental sustainability skills through education. The goal is for this to lead to a greener economy and provide better job opportunities for young people. The discussion focused on grasping the opportunity to turn economic recovery into economic transformation – building resilient economies that account for planet and people. This initiative consists of a top down effort via UNEP's Youth and Education Alliance and relevant ministries, as well as a bottom up effort via youth engagement and through pathways for connected implementation via enhancing education and employer connections. In the top-down approach, UNEP, with other UN agencies, and relevant ministries are provided with a draft letter to send out to high schools and universities/technical colleges. The letter is valuable to chief academic officers, educators, youth and career advisors and university department chairs. In the bottom-up approach, communication is needed with youth networks on how to ask governments and educational institutions for green jobs training and science-based green policies.



6) What does a life-cycle approach applied to address marine litter and plastic pollution look like?

During the first pre-meeting of the informal “Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution”, a request was made by Member States to UNEP and the Life Cycle Initiative (hosted by UNEP) to provide technical insights to the delegates on what does it mean to use a life cycle approach in the context of plastic pollution. In this sense, a webinar on “What does a life-cycle approach applied to address marine litter and plastic pollution look like?” was held and attended by EEG on **12 July, 2021**. The webinar focused on providing technical description and understanding of creating systematic life approach to plastic products and supporting the circular economy concept. The discussion deliberated the plastic pollution hotspots implications as well as the need of holistic solutions and keeping the topic high. The discussion also involved the importance of shifting the paradigm from single use plastic waste to ensuring that plastic never becomes a waste by altering the product in the early designing stages and make it reusable, recyclable and compostable. Furthermore, the webinar called attention to bringing key leadership groups together to set and implement concrete plans against 2025 plastic targets timeline.

7) The Honest Voice, Bridging the Gap

EEG attended on **12th July** a virtual webinar on “The Honest Voice, Bridging The gap: Climate, Sustainability & Resource Efficiency; Ensuring Health, Safety & The Environment; Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19” organised by the Saudi Green Building Forum. COVID-19 has impacted nearly all areas of human life, natural resources, environment and the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. “The Honest Voice” requires strengthening the science-policy interface, building civil community resilience through empowering independent education, health and safety/ just systems supported by multi-sectoral and cross-disciplinary action. The virtual side event is a part of the High-Level Political Forum 2021 and was an open discussion and present engagement of all stakeholders “leaving no one behind” to bridge the gap between public and private sectors role in achieving the SDGs through the lenses of the goal 12 the “responsible consumption and production.” Government representatives, expert speakers, youth and local NGOs discussed the best way to go forward on the expression “The Honest Voice: Bridge the Gap Between Empowerment & Sustainability Ensuring Health, Safety & the Environment post-COVID”. The discussion covered replicable and collaborative solutions to: a) longer-term priorities for the future, by recognising natural resources economic empowerment, access to finance, decent work, equal pay, and social security; b) realisation of the right to education, with regard to underrepresented fields such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics; c) ensure full, equal and meaningful participation, representation and leadership between women and men at all levels and in all fields; d) address the impact of climate change and uneven natural disasters; e) ending all forms of violence and harmful practices; f) protection from armed conflict and ensuring participation in peace talks and mediation processes; g) achieving preventive health care, with a focus on the universal ‘value chain’.

8) Forum of Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Marine Litter & Micro-plastics

On **13th July**, EEG attended a Forum of Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Marine Litter and Microplastics organised by the Ministry of Environment, Japan with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Forum aimed to explore immediate and concrete multi-stakeholder activities and enable subject-specific discussions and collaboration in the field of marine litter and microplastics. It was attended by Member States, other UNEP bodies, private sector, NGOs, and international organisations. This Forum also witnessed the launch of the new International Resource Panel Report, titled ‘Policy Options to Eliminate Additional Marine Plastic Litter by 2050 under the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision’. This think-piece provided policy options to reduce marine plastic litter and achieve the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which voluntarily commits G20 countries to “reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach”. Next, the Chair of UNEA Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics (AHEG) provided the summary of their progress and the work under the consideration of UNEA-5. A presentation by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation titled ‘Upstream Innovation - Practical Solutions to Achieve a Circular Economy for Plastic’ offered strategies to reduce the use and circulation of plastics. Upstream innovation in plastic production and use involves three steps:

1. Elimination: Packaging is eliminated while user experience is maintained or enhanced.
2. Reuse: Packaging is reused, rather than discarded after one use, creating value for both users and businesses.
3. Material circulation: Packaging is designed so that the materials it is made from can be recycled or composted.

9) Circularity for Resilience and Jobs: Green Recovery Policies Are the Global Opportunities Today

EEG attended an online webinar on circularity for resilience and jobs organised by the UNEP on **14th of July** with panelists coming from different regions of the world. The discussion included sharing of green recovery plans applications in Argentina and India, Thailand, etc., along with the current challenges and what needs to be done to scale up circular economy for a sustainable future. Suggestions were made for more investment in circular economy and building a new industry where it will increase the harmony with nature activities and will result in minimising the waste generation. The challenges still exist, governments and key leaders need to be brought together and set them the context of how important it is to shift the human behaviour in order to avoid additional severe impacts toward the environment.

10) 2nd Open Science Conference

EEG attended on **21st July** the 2nd Open Science Conference organised by the United Nations Department of Global Communications, Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division of Sustainable Development Goals. titled “From Tackling the Pandemic to Addressing Climate Change”. Policy makers, main intergovernmental organisations (IGO) actors, librarians, publishers and research practitioners were engaged in a public dialogue focusing on what Open Science has learned from COVID-19 and how this can be applied into actions addressing the global climate crisis, at the interface of science, technology, policy and research. The Conference brought the global discussion on open science and climate action to the United Nations and highlighted national and IGO policies and Open Science initiatives from around the world. In cooperation with the global Open Science and Open Scholarship community, the Conference also engaged with early career leaders advancing openness in research and education at a time of lockdowns, and invited them into conversation with established leaders and policy makers in this key area for the UN 2030 Agenda.

[Watch Here](#)

11) UN Food Systems Pre-Summit

EEG attended virtually the Pre-Summit of the UN Food Systems Summit which took place as a hybrid event in the period between **26th-28th July** in Roma, Italy. The Pre-summit is laying the ground for the UN Food Systems Summit which will take place in September as a closing event. As per the leadership of the UN Secretary-General the Pre-summit is considered as “People’s Summit” where voices from different categories and regions of the world such as youth, farmers, indigenous peoples, civil societies, researchers, private sector, policy leaders and ministers are brought together in one platform with a bold ambition to improve food systems. The Pre-summit ensured that even the rural and marginalised groups are being involved in discussions and contributing in the sessions as part of the Summit process. The Pre-summit programme included interactive hybrid sessions delivering the latest



approaches and scientific solutions transforming the food systems around the world. The discussions aimed to overcome current challenges, bring new innovations to the table, promote human rights and gender equality, enhance economic financing, etc., to set out new commitments and actions to unify the framework for food systems transformation.

12) Product Lifetime Extension

In 2020, the One Planet network Consumer Information Programme set up a new working group on Product Lifetime Extension, led by UNEP and the Akatu Institute. The Working Group aims to bring together practitioners and policy makers and push progress towards product lifetime extension policies and practices worldwide and to better engage consumers by raising awareness and improving communication on product lifetime extension. EEG as a member of the Working Group attended a webinar on 29th July that discussed the complementary roles of regulation and consumer information tools in the promotion of product lifetime extension practices. The webinar shared findings from the policies mapping, which the group has developed over the past few months as well as other important work around the topic of Product Lifetime Extension. The webinar also discussed the subject of longer lifetime for products, the academic perspective on the complementary role of regulation and continuous integration (CI) tools in promoting PLE, practical perspective on the applicability and effectiveness of the policies from the business and consumer organisations.

13) Marine Litter Spills and Emergency Response

Global Partnership on Marine Litter and The South Asia Regional Node (SACEP) has called for an online discussion on “Marine Litter Spills and Emergency Response” after Sri Lanka’s devastating June ship disaster on 29th July 2021. EEG joined the discussion where relevant people from Sri Lanka’s South Asian Seas Programme (SACEP), Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Parley for the Oceans and representative from International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF) facilitated the conversation. The purpose of the discussion was to share the incident causes, details, losses, impacts, actions taken and how to improve the current emergency response plan in a way to include such incidents.

The representatives from responsible entities in Sri Lanka clearly mentioned that the ship was coming from India loaded with large hazardous chemical containers, where a leakage of certain chemicals caused the fire. Several reasons have contributed to the deadly consequences and surrounding ecosystem damage as the area is considered as an ecologically highly sensitive area. There were no proper emergency response actions in place, neither to discharge the leaking of containers nor to avoid impact to the environment. The vessel continued to sink and the incident created a lot of issues related to chemicals spill, oil spill, etc. The Sri Lankan government efforts are still ongoing and working on containing the impacts. Also, community awareness programmes are in place and NGO’s as well as volunteering programmes are carried out to spread awareness and raise funds. The ITOPF representative noted that recovery plans for such incidents take years because of the huge damage caused, and different tools and techniques are to be used to improve the recovery rates. It is to be noted that the situation is very dynamic and there is a need for proper coordination and resources distribution in order to reach a point of minimal losses and initiation of restoration.

Food and Agriculture Organisation Engagements

In the month of July, EEG participated in a couple of FAO engagements:

1) Transforming Agri-Food Systems to achieve the SDGs

The Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO) held a regional dialogue with the private sector in the Near East and North Africa region which EEG attended on 12th July. The purpose of the dialogue was to explore opportunities for further partnerships aimed at transforming agri-food systems, making them more productive, resilient and sustainable. The event was held under the theme ‘Transforming Agri-Food Systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals - Hand in Hand with the Private Sector’. Following the opening session, which also saw remarks from the Assistant-Director General and FAO Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, the dialogue was divided in two panel sessions. Panel 1 discussed how public-private engagements can provide large-scale solutions for addressing regional priorities and achieving the SDGs in the Near East and North Africa. Panel 2 was focused on the potential of green and inclusive technologies in agriculture. The results of this dialogue will be submitted to the Near East Regional Conference in 2022, providing an opportunity for Governments and other stakeholders in the Region to discuss them.

2) FAO Regional Stakeholder Dialogue

In preparation for the Regional Conference for the Near East which will take place in February 2022, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (NENA) convened a Regional Stakeholder Dialogue on 13th to 15th July which EEG attended. The dialogue engaged informal consultations with Member States and stakeholders from the region so as to help shape the agenda of the Conference. This meeting is part of FAO efforts to strengthen the governance mechanism and ownership of the Organisation’s activities in the region. The meeting was structured around the four Regional Priority Areas endorsed by the 36th Near East Conference. For each theme, a short background document was prepared as a basis for discussion. Participants provided their views on the priority areas for actions proposed for discussion and on the specific questions that they wish to see discussed at the NERC-36.

Priority 1: Rural transformation for youth employment and income.

Priority 2: Transforming agri-food systems to promote healthy diets for all.

Priority 3: Greening agriculture: towards sustainable recovery and climate change action.

Priority 4: Building resilience to multiple shocks.

The 3-day dialogue discussed FAO’s new Strategic Framework: View from a regional perspective that focuses on the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, a better life and leaving no one behind. The four Betters (1. Better Life, 2. Better Nutrition, 3. Better Production and 4. Better Environment) were also shared during the forum which represented an organising principle for how FAO intends to support the achievement of the SDG Agenda and encourage a strategic and systems-oriented approach. The dialogue also discussed the pre-COVID-19 situation of food security and sustainable agriculture which was already critical in many ways, with some alarming trends that have only been exacerbated by the crisis just as the challenges and risks facing food security, nutrition and natural resources in the region are interrelated, priorities are also interdependent and interrelated, and they need to be addressed in an integrated manner.



CEBC Engagements

In the month of July, EEG participated in a couple of CEBC engagements:

1) Energy Efficiency in MENA: Status & Outlook - White Paper launch

EEG attended a webinar organised by CEBC on 6th July, 2021. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the release of a white paper. Government subsidies provided to end-users for energy and water consumption in the MENA region have decreased dramatically since the early 2010s, along with higher electricity tariffs and fuel prices. An overview of energy efficiency developments in the building, industrial and transportation sectors in MENA was presented, along with recommendations for policymakers and businesses. There were speakers from diverse MENA countries discussing energy efficiency in their current markets. This report aims to serve as a resource for the MENA private sector, offering management and strategic advice for businesses, to assist them in best adapting to reforms and planning for the future. This white paper is the second edition of the January 2018 CEBC report, Energy Efficiency in the GCC: Status and Outlook. MENA region buildings, industrial, and transportation sectors were covered in the 2018 report, which included an overview of energy efficiency developments as well as recommendations for businesses and government.

2) Women Entrepreneurs in Clean-tech: Success Stories and Learnings

EEG attended on 28th July a webinar organised by CEBC and its Working Group Women in Clean Energy (WICE) partnership with Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE) to present a discussion on Women Entrepreneurs in Canada and Middle East: Success Stories and Learnings. The purpose of the webinar was to feature female entrepreneurs, the challenges faced in climate tech and inspire opportunities for all. The discussion revolved on real life examples sharing their experiences and challenges while developing their own business projects in the clean energy sector. The speakers encouraged woman to join the Clean Energy sector as it is a new emerging sector and clearly stated that it is a great opportunity for all women and the success stories are inspirational for all. The challenges mentioned during the discussion included lack of access to digital tools, social and cultural barriers against women empowerment, lack of financing, etc. Yet, each woman in the discussion has found her way to overcome the difficulties and built her success story. The speakers also highlighted that women are strong by nature, culturally prepared to overcome challenges and always know how to find their way in order to achieve something. The speakers also emphasised that women still need the support and encouragement by setting the right policies, approving gender equality from early design stages of any project, etc.

1st July EEG Chairperson joins the World Green Building Council's Board of Directors

The World Green Building Council is a network of national green building councils in more than ninety countries, making it the world's largest international organisation influencing the green building marketplace. The WorldGBC mission is to strengthen green building councils in member countries by championing their leadership and connecting them to a network of knowledge, inspiration and practical support. The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) announced on 1st July the newly elected members and officers of the Board of Directors and Regional Chairs, as well as the new Chair and Vice Chairs of the Corporate Advisory Board in which EEG Chairperson, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi officially joined the Board of Directors of the World Green Building Council's Board for the term 2021-2023. The Board of Directors comprises of highly experienced building industry professionals who hold senior positions on the staff or Boards of WorldGBC's established member Green Building Councils and are driving forwards the largest global-regional-local action network to deliver net zero, healthy, equitable and sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere. By driving collaboration and increasing the profile of the green building market, the WorldGBC works with its member councils and to ensure that green buildings are a part of any comprehensive strategy to deliver carbon emission reductions. Since the official appointment, EEG Chairperson has attended several meetings that covered the strategic direction and governance of WorldGBC, the roles and responsibilities, the key aspects of the organisation, the WorldGBC strategy and state of progress, involvement in the Finance & Membership Board Committee and the way forward.

7th July Climate Action and Energy Transition in the EU-GCC

EEG virtually attended a conference hosted by the EU-GCC on July 7th, 2021. The conference was regarding 'Climate Action and Energy Transition in the EU and GCC: Adaptation and Mitigation Solutions'. Climate change is an issue that we have been facing for a very long time. The conference addressed various solutions for adaptation and mitigation. However, these solutions are not sufficient by themselves. Policy and cooperation at all scales are crucial for effective implementation, which is enhanced by integrated responses that link mitigation and adaptation to other societal objectives. In the face of climate change, all the panellists stressed the importance of adaptation and mitigation, as well as moving to net-zero. The panellists gave insights on the climate change problem and the possible solutions. A pathway to zero-carbon energy sector is energy transition, which is transition away from fossil-based energy. The European Union (EU) is collaborating with other countries and regions towards achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Through multilateral forums and in its bilateral cooperation, the European Union promotes ambitious climate action in non-EU countries, including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

13th July Visions of a climate resilient and net-zero future workshop - Arabian Peninsula Region

The UN has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits since nearly three decades, which are called COPs standing for 'Conference of the Parties' that has shifted the status of global climate change issue into a global priority. As part of the COPs engagement project, UN has planned the online stakeholders workshop on visions of a climate resilient and net-zero future in the Arabian Peninsula Region which was facilitated by internationally renowned organisations, which included Deloitte, AECOM, the University of Cambridge, One Young World and Radley Yeldar, in which EEG also attended on 13th July. The main intention of the workshop was to record sentiments about a feasible and desirable 2050. A broad discussion and exchange of ideas and thoughts took place during three sessions as follows: The discussion included a brainstorming methodology against each of the listed questions, in which attendees shared their thoughts on how to scope the visions under the concerned subject (i.e. personal - related to your life and hopes, delivers: net zero and climate resilience, feasible - based on Science and Innovation, desirable - positive, just outcomes, time horizon - by 2050, Geographical focus - in the Gulf Region). The stakeholders' ideas supported the net zero and climate resilience concept. The ideas included, but not limited to, the following:

- We are looking forward to seeing outcomes resulting in climate variability where ecosystems can thrive;
- Adapting to new technology such as: green hydrogen, hyper loop, long distance, green financing, solar banners on villas that charges the cars, etc.;
- Changing the products manufacturing designs;
- More Investment in science and support to scientific research centers
- Look for new construction technologies for more affordable housing for less privileged people (i.e. 3D Printing);

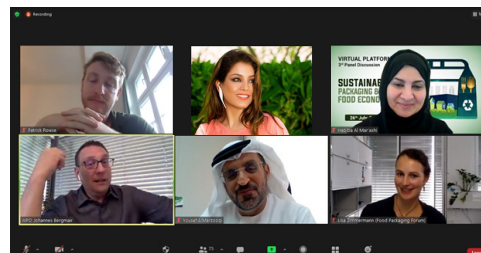


- Look for new forms of energy - nuclear and solar;
- Scaling up low carbon innovation;
- New legislations and laws are required to serve the climate change matter;
- Spread awareness and educate the community;
- Aging population is not an issue in the middle east because of the culture and traditions that supports marriages and high birth rates; and
- More investment in space industry (i.e. space economy, sending waste to space, etc), marine agriculture.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of taking real actions and putting more focus on the 2050 goals for a healthier and better quality of life. Additionally, all actions must balance between the economic, social and environmental needs for current and future generations.

26th July Sustainable Packaging and the Food Economy

To discuss radical changes in food packaging and to ensure sustainability and recyclable practices under the leitmotif "Sustainable Packaging and The Food Economy" EEG organised a Panel Discussion on 26th July 2021. The focus was to analyse the various food packaging materials that facilitate sustainable development and how can unsustainable practices be reduced. The panel began with the opening remarks of EEG chairperson emphasising "the urgent need to bring change in societal view on food packing and implementing environmentally friendly methods to achieve sustainable packaging solutions to reduce carbon emissions" EEG invited Mr. Yousef AlMarzooqi, the head of Regulations and Systems at the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), Ms. Megna Lakhani, the Founder and CEO of One Modern World, Dr. Johannes Bergmair, the General Secretary of World Packaging Organisation, Ms. Lisa Zimmermann, the Scientific Communications Office for Food Packaging Forum and Mr. Patrick Rowse, the Sustainability Manager of Delivery Hero / Talabat.



The five eminent speakers discoursed about the "Circular Economy Policy" of the UAE cabinet which is an agenda based on adopting methods which ensure reduced environmental stress, to achieve the country's vision of being a global pioneer of green development. Each speaker highlighted the measures taken to reduce harmful effects on humanity and environment. Some of the measures discussed were

1. Using bio-degradable materials like agricultural waste, seaweed waste,
2. Use of reusable packaging products made from compostable materials like bamboo, plant based,
3. Avoiding PFA additives, and
4. Using scientific techniques to eradicate chemicals and completely eliminate single use packaging materials.

Engr. Yousef discussed the government's standpoint to tackle these issues. He highlighted the strategic objectives and initiatives undertaken by the MoIAT to ensure that the industries in UAE comply with national and global climate action goals. Ms. Zimmermann then shared the key aspects of safety. Current food packages such as plastic that contain chemicals that can potentially affect human and environmental health. She highlighted the issues of migration of unknown chemicals used for the production of packages into the food taken up by humans on a daily basis. She emphasised that the way forward is to consider chemical safety aspects in the transition to circular economy. With the discussion that food packaging has environmental consequences, Dr. Bergmair is with the view that there should be a balance. Packaging should be optimised to ensure that it is recyclable and there is no under packing or over packing; both extremes will have negative environmental impact.

Mr. Rowse shared the statistics taken by Talabat in the UAE and Qatar on the topics of sustainable packaging. According to their survey, an overwhelming 92% of their customer base in UAE stated that they would buy from restaurants that use sustainable packages for delivery. Ms. Lakhani provided the statistics and figures of the most commonly available packages in the market. In addition, the steps taken by the industry to address the growing packaging waste was also shared with the audience. The true future lies in achieving Carbon Neutrality by balancing emissions of carbon dioxide with its removal or offsetting. This can be done through investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency or other clean, low-carbon technologies to develop food packaging materials. To conclude, the session highlighted that comprehensive sustainable development is possible by moving away from a degenerative linear method where minerals, metals, biomass are extracted from earth, used and thrown away, towards a method which secures the well-being of current and future generations by embracing regenerative technologies within environmental limits.

Neighbourhood Recycling Project

The 11th cycle of the "Neighbourhood Recycling Project" (NRP), was rolled out on 1st June and is accepting registrations till 30th September. Having the students engage to promote environmental sustainability has significant results for both the young people and the community. This student oriented project trains the young minds to become environmental stewards and dedicated leaders who will advocate and promote environmental sustainability not just amongst their peers but also to the wider society. We send out an open call to the student community in the UAE, to participate and to contribute to a better tomorrow. The current cycle has registered 165 participants in two months.

To register, please go to: <https://forms.gle/6HnnRMjqcBbN9oMw5>

Recycle. Reforest. Repeat

EEG is happy to announce the remarkable contribution of 274 participants in its "Recycle. Reforest. Repeat" project that was held from 17th June to 21st July 2021. The families, schools and companies succeeded in collecting 140,142 kg papers. This contribution has resulted in the reduction of 542 MTCO₂e, energy saving of 3,146 Million BTU, landfill saving of 443 m³ and the conservation of 2,382 trees. A total of 153 trees will be planted by the participants under their name to mark their noble efforts on 21.12.21.



542 MT CO₂e



443 m³ of landfill space



3,146 Million BTU of energy



2,382 trees



Young Writers Competition on Sustainability and “Our Planet”

Reedz, in partnership with Emirates Environmental Group was proud to announce the winners of its Young Writers Competition on Sustainability and “Our Planet” on 15th July. The writing competition was launched to stimulate aspiring young writers and innovators to come up with tomorrow’s solution for today’s environmental challenges, while at the same time supporting curricular coursework. The association between Reedz and the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), The Water Alliance UAE and the Swiss International Scientific School Dubai (SISD) offered a wider audience the unique opportunity to join the Young Writers Competition on tomorrow’s solution for today’s environmental challenges. The competition gathered exceptional global interest with submissions from more than 25 countries and was judged by the COO at Emirates Literature Foundation, Co-Founder & Head Kids Content at Reedz, and our very own, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar’ashi - EEG Chairperson. Want to know more about the 12 winning stories of the Young Writers Competition? You can download the Reedz app on AppStore or Google Play and find them in English under the kids category “Young Writers”. The artistic book covers have been illustrated by the winners of the EEG Environmental Drawing Competition 2021.

Invitation to Join the Survey: UNESCO Report on Knowledge and Youth-Led Climate Action in the Arab Region

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab Region - Cairo Office is leading the development of a regional report entitled Knowledge and Youth-Led Climate Action in the Arab Region. This report will analyse the knowledge dimension of youth-led climate action in the Arab region including the sources youth rely on, the knowledge they generate, the avenues they utilize to disseminate information, and how they use that knowledge in their everyday lives. An integral part of this report is a regional survey. The goal of the regional survey is to obtain a deeper understanding of how young climate actors - whether they are academics, activists, entrepreneurs, artists, journalists, etc. - gain knowledge about climate change, their contributions to climate-related knowledge production in the Arab region, and their influence in this field. This regional survey targets youth climate actors who work in the climate change/climate action space, between the ages of 18-35 living in the Arab region. Youth climate actors can include academics, activists, entrepreneurs, government employees, journalists, bloggers, artists, etc.

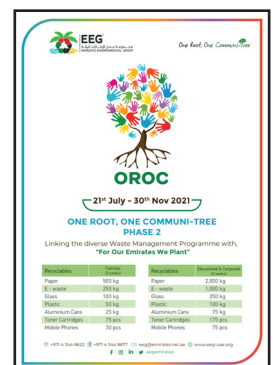
[Click for more](#)

Upcoming Events

One Root, One Communi-tree Phase 2

The pandemic may have changed our way of living, but it definitely has not broken our spirits as Green Heroes! Since the inception of EEG 30 years ago, it has advocated the importance of collaboration and working together to achieve sustainable progress. Now more than ever, we are calling on everyone to unite and participate in Phase 2 of the “One Root, One Communi-tree” (OROC) project. The Phase 2 of OROC is taking place from 21st July - 30th November 2021 for all including the corporate sector, the academic institutions and families. The main aim of the project is to divert waste materials away from the landfill while engaging communities and giving the participants of the project a chance to plant indigenous trees, providing everyone in the nation with a great opportunity to take part in the afforestation efforts to combat desertification and reduce impacts of climate change. The objective of the project is to collect and deposit any or multiple recyclables for recycling and achieve the set target within a span of any given two weeks.

Please click the link to register <https://forms.gle/GTxriAfkydaAbEnX8>



EEG Launches its 20th Cycle of Clean Up UAE!

EEG aims to bring together all the different sectors of the community with the shared ambition to be good stewards of the environment and promote sustainable development of the United Arab Emirates.

Clean UP UAE 2021 will be the 20th edition of the campaign - a strong milestone. Through the years, this national campaign has grown exponentially in scope and reach to embrace some of the remotest corners of the UAE. It has become a symbol to celebrate the unique environment of the country and mobilise mass support for its preservation.

The registration is now open as well as the Sponsorship opportunity for like-minded organisations that are interested to partner with EEG and sponsor the prestigious project.

For Participants: Please click here to register: <https://forms.gle/9U9QkBEuDP3FbmFs7>





UNCCD
NEWS

Costa Rica rallies up World Leaders to act on Land Restoration

As host of the 2021 Desertification and Drought Day, Costa Rica brought together world leaders and leading environmental figures on 17 June to rally political support to ramp up land restoration globally in the coming decade. The virtual High-Level Forum was led by the President of Costa Rica and the Minister of Environment and Energy. The virtual High-level Forum addressed the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in the context of global efforts to restore balance with nature and promote peace, while fighting climate change and ensuring human health. Costa Rica hosted the global celebration this year and showed the impacts and solutions for this problem in a televised talk show programme aired the same day. The goal for this year's Desertification and Drought Day was to demonstrate that investing in sustainable land and water management in the aftermath of COVID-19 can invigorate a green recovery, in terms of creating decent jobs and rebuilding livelihoods, but also in protecting societies and economies from potential crises caused by climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

[Click for more](#)


UNEP
NEWS

Western Indian Ocean Region has Declared 550,000 Square Kilometers as Protected

The Western Indian Ocean Region has declared 143 marine and coastal areas as protected - an area covering 553,163 square kilometers, representing 7% of the total Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for the region - according to a new publication by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)-Nairobi Convention and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association. The Marine Protected Areas Outlook, released on 16th July, indicates that almost half of the total area - an estimated 63% of the overall square kilometers - was brought under protection in the seven years since the 2015 adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 14.5, which committed countries to conserve at least 10% of their marine and coastal areas by 2020.

[Click for more](#)


IUCN
NEWS

EU Commission Outlines the Way Forward for Forests

On 16th July 2021, the European Commission unveiled the much-awaited EU Forest Strategy as part of its Fit for 55 packages - the Commission's legislative pathway to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. The Forest Strategy, a crucial component of the EU Green Deal, recognises the central role of forests, foresters and the entire forest-based value chain for achieving by 2050 a sustainable and climate-neutral economy and for ensuring that all of ecosystems are restored, resilient, and adequately protected. With regard to protection and restoration, the EU Forest Strategy is coherent with the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and reinforces the need to strictly protect all remaining old-growth and primary forest in Europe.

[Click for more](#)

EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 26 new student members & 17 renewed student members in the month of July 2021

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Aafra Rezan	New	Shahid Fayis	New
Aaron Pais	New	Shuvangee Seth	New
Abigail Pais	New	Shyam Manikandan	New
Aditi Adarsh	New	Tazkeer Mohammed Absar	New
Ahmed Abu Baker	New	Abarnaa Sai Veeraraghavan	Renewal
Ananya Manikandan	New	Abdul Aleem Jasser	Renewal
Ayushman Anant	New	Afsa Tassnim	Renewal
Darsh Rajesh Punjabi	New	Amarnath Sreevalsan	Renewal
Devadev Manoj Kumar	New	Ananya Sandeep	Renewal
Ebel Jilson Painadath	New	Aniruddh Krovvidi	Renewal
Jay Metha	New	M.N. Vivekanandan	Renewal
Jyotika Kiren	New	Madhav Krishna Seshadri Sumanth	Renewal
Kanshika Manikandan	New	Mishka Punjabi	Renewal
Lena Murali	New	Raghav Krishna Seshadri Sumanth	Renewal
Naisha Sanjay Tolani	New	Rahul Ashok	Renewal
Nishtha Rupareliya	New	Richa Vaishnavi Balaji	Renewal
Rania Tanveer Modak	New	Rohan Ashok	Renewal
Risha Amit Baid	New	Sai Vaishnavi Balaji	Renewal
Sai Akshita Arunkumar	New	Sarah Jaleel	Renewal
Sai Archita Arunkumar	New	Srijana Pal	Renewal
Sashini Manikandan	New	Yashita Saxena	Renewal
Shafeeka Jamal	New		



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

- » GHG Reductions 440 (MTCO₂)
- » Saving of 2,925 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 654 m3 of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 2,133 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 1,404 Gallons of Gasoline



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 109,747 kg of Paper from 267 participants during the month of July 2021, an increase of 33% compared to June 2021. We urge our participants to be actively involved in our recycling campaigns this year to enable us to achieve our targets. The Top Collectors were:	The School of Research Science	4,065	Ali Alzaabi	3,740
	Delhi Private School Sharjah	2,266	Aradhana Suresh	2,852
	Ajman Academy School	1,430	Stuti Kamath	1,354
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 7,012 kg of Plastic from 134 participants during the month of July 2021 an increase of 2% compared to June 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:	Delhi Private School Sharjah	236	Sultan Ali Al Zaabi	110
	Abu Dhabi Men's College	200	Qazi Umer	65
	Dubai Women's College	145	Afra Ali & Muzna Ali (Tie)	60
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected 782 pieces of Toners from 11 participants during the month of July 2021, an increase of 110% compared to June 2021. We encourage our participants to be more active in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	-		Shahd Hassan Al Suwaidan	423
			Shreejith Vasanthakumar	103
			Justin Shino Chacko	64
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected 326 pieces of Mobile Phones from 5 participants during the month of July 2021, an increase of 952% compared to June 2021. We urge participants to support us and we encourage them to be active in the collection of this valuable material in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	Delhi Private School Sharjah	14	Rania Taneer Modak	36
	-		Bhadra Jayachadran	17
			-	-
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 1,914 kg of Glass Bottles from 26 participants during the month of July 2021, a decrease of 77% compared to June 2021. We thank our participants for their support to us and encourage them to continue collecting in the year 2021 to help us achieve our targets. The Top collectors were:	The Arbor School	10	Aashika Singh	120
	-		Hassan Abdullah Hassan & Mana Al Suwaidi (Tie)	70
			Dave C Pais	26
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 840 kg of E-waste from 7 participants during the month of July 2021, a decrease of 51% compared to June 2021. We encourage our participants to continue collecting in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	-	-	Vidyuth Balaji	11
			-	-
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 59 kg of Scrap metals from 2 participants during the month of July 2021, an increase of 392% compared to June 2021. We invite and encourage our participants to put more effort and to join this new programme. The Top collector was:	-	-	Maitha Al Mar'ashi	53
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN				
EEG collected 214 kg of Aluminum Cans from 13 participants during the month of July 2021, an increase of 146% compared to June 2021. We urge our participants to put more efforts to help us achieve the set targets for the year 2021.				
EEG invites all its members & participants to intensify efforts for this year to contribute significantly to the betterment of our environment and achieve the set targets for the above campaigns.				

