

# EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة  
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
GROUP



October 2021  
Issue 10



## Tale of the Unequivocal Provider THE ABODE OF LIFE

Students Workshops  
25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021



## Upcoming Events

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

### CAN COLLECTION DRIVE

Ready, Rally, Recycle!  
Collect Your Cans and Join Us

Locations : Zabeel Park, Gate2  
Al Barsha Pond Park (Main Gate)  
Al Mamzar Park (Main Parking)

Timings : 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Registration Link:  
<https://forms.gle/REXXAXSaSaBewCY9>

Organized by: EEG  
Co-Sponsor: EGA  
Supported by: DUBAI  
Logistical Support: ABELACO  
Recycling Partner: TRISTAR

Media Supporters: Al-Nahda Group, CARAMEL, GOLD, RAKO

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Under the Patronage of  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
& ENVIRONMENT

### CLEAN UP UAE

Organized by: EEG  
Co-Sponsor: ZURICH  
Main Sponsor: McDonald's  
Support Sponsors: RAKBANK

DEC 6  
DEC 7  
DEC 9  
DEC 11  
DEC 12  
DEC 16

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## Reach Out to EEG for More Details



### BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES:

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



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## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

The 9<sup>th</sup> month of the year has come and gone. The month saw the most awaited sight where students were welcomed back to the school after a prolonged COVID 19 induced 'holiday'. This brings a very positive development towards the preparation for the normalisation after Covid-19 disrupted learning.

At the EEG, we had a very fruitful and full of activity month. During the month of September we had over 50 virtual participations in numerous meetings, webinars, campaigns and projects of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), World GBC Board, United Nations Global Compact, World Benchmarking Alliance, UN food Summit and many others.

We are delighted to share that we completed the 4<sup>th</sup> and last Panel Discussion of the year on the topic of "Effective International Partnerships: A Door for the Next Decade". The 4<sup>th</sup> Panel discussion highlighted the need to revitalise partnerships. Strengthening multidimensional and global partnerships are more important than ever before if we are to solve the world's problems. The 2030 Agenda, with its 17 goals, is universal and calls for actions by all countries to ensure that we all move forward together sustainably. With 9 years left to achieve all the targets set for Agenda 2030, it is the need of the hour to discuss the role and impact of partnerships and probe into the implications of leading a sustainable recovery from the pandemic and in stimulating a decade of action.

We have wrapped up the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of our very popular and well-known action programme the "Neighbourhood Recycling Project" (NRP). We are grateful to all the Students who came forward and contributed towards a Sustainable Future! (Read more on pages 8).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of our waste management programme "One Root, One Communi-tree" (OROC) project is gaining steam. 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 two weeks. The registration is open until the end of November. I invite everyone who reads my note to participate and encourage their friends, families, peers and neighbours also to participate and make an impact in the world.

The 25<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Annual Can Collection Drive is scheduled for Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021. We sincerely hope that you will support us in this effective campaign to contribute towards a sustainable future. We need to come together to promote recycling for all and uphold our

responsibility towards the preservation of the environment. Recycling is the simplest way to conserve resources and the best platform to ensure that we close the loop and bring about a circular economy. Kindly confirm your participation by filling out the registration form via link: <https://forms.gle/8EtXAX5ao5aBswCY9>

Our action programme, Clean-Up UAE is planned for 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 till 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Initiated in 2012, the Clean-Up UAE 2021 is the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the campaign. Through the years the campaign has grown exponentially to become UAE's most popular Clean-Up Drive. The campaign proves to the world that the people of the UAE have a strong sense of belonging, responsibility and patriotism for the country. They realise that it is their duty to maintain and ensure its well-being and hence participate in this national level grass root campaign to show their commitment and support.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Engr. Sheikh Salim Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi - member of the executive council of the Government of Ras Al Khaimah and Chairman of RAK Civil Aviation Authority and honorary member of EEG. The Group inaugurated its new planting season by planting 525 indigenous trees in collaboration with Al Shaya group, the Massaed Company at Al Minae - (Skheibar Area) South of Ras Al Khaimah with the participation of more than 200 people representing the Al Shaya Group, the Massaed staff, the EEG team and volunteers from the Emirates Lions Club.

Emirates Environmental Group is proud to share that it will join its sister organisation - the Arabia CSR Network as the Environmental partner of the 9<sup>th</sup> cycle of the PAN - ARAB Forum - The Arabia CSR Forum - on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. The much renowned Arabia CSR Awards will follow after the Forum on the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.

I would like to conclude with a Quote by our founding father - the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan - "We have worked, since the establishment of our state, to protect the environment and wildlife.

These achievements should be an incentive for us, particularly the Emirati youth, the future generation, to continue taking care of and keeping the environment safe and clean because if we don't, we shall destroy the resources that Allah blessed us with; these resources are not ours alone, they also belong to our children and their children."



## UN Engagements

*In the month of September, EEG participated in a several of UN engagements:*

### 1) Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

On the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2021, EEG attended the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. It was organised by the governments of Ecuador, Germany, Ghana and Vietnam supported by UNEP. The event was a hybrid one, with some Member States attending at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) premises in Geneva, while others through the online platform.

The Conference focused on providing Member States and stakeholders with a platform for informal consultations as a precursor to the second part of the United Nations Environment Programme or UNEA 5.2, while building on the mandates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> sessions of UNEA on tackling marine litter and microplastics. The goal of the Conference was to build momentum and political will to advance a coherent global strategy to end marine litter and plastic pollution, thus ensuring a future with clean seas.

Over the two days, Member States and stakeholders provided their interventions on the topics discussed and there were several key takeaway messages from the five thematic work streams. On Day 2, the Chair of the Conference invited attendees to provide updates on the specific steps in preparation of the resumed session of UNEA 5 and the formal process leading up to it. A highlight of the Conference, which also took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, was the High-Level dialogue where national representatives delivered their positions on two aspects:

1. Desired outcomes of the resumed session of UNEA 5
2. The Ministerial Declaration

### 2) EEG Attends International Consultation for MGS

EEG attended the International Consultation for Major Groups and Stakeholders from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The event consisted of the main plenary as well as several breakout sessions for the convenience of easier discussions on the part of attendees. The objective of the Consultation was to advance the development of UNEP's strategies around specific initiatives including resolutions and decisions in the run up to UNEA 5.2 as well as the events related to UNEA@50 and Stockholm+50. The three-day session invited Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) to deliberate on several thematic clusters and topics covering: The UNEA We Want/UNEA@50, Environmental Governance/Resolution 73/333 including the Escazu Agreement and environmental defenders, Marine Litter and Plastics Treaty, Food Systems, Chemicals, Waste, Mercury and many more.

Thus, the main objectives of the international Consultation on day one were: Clarification of objectives for the consultation by thematic clusters and task forces and Strategic discussions on political opportunities around UNEA 5.2 with UNEP and invited governments. As for Day 2: Each topic and thematic cluster had its own in-depth discussions in parallel working sessions to better understand initiatives (in particular, resolutions) tabled for UNEA 5.2 and political opportunities and risks, understanding of interconnection between different initiatives. Discussions on specific outcomes for each topic, for example the draft joint statement on the UNEP We Want, call to action on global plastics treaty or position on Res 73/333 was carried out. Day 3 concluded with focusing on: Sharing of outcomes of parallel working sessions and agreements on specific outcomes for each topic including draft joint statement on The UNEP We Want and Call to Action regarding plastics treaty.

### 3) Using Product Lifetime Extension to Advance Circular Economy

As a member of the working group on Using Product Lifetime Extension to Advance Circular Economy' under UN Environment Programme (UNEP), EEG attended on 8<sup>th</sup> September the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the working group that discussed how the guidelines for providing product sustainability information can give insights for the communication of product lifetime extension practices and the recap on the status of the main outputs from the group.

A presentation was given to set the scene to the discussion on how the group can best communicate Product Lifetime Extension (PLE) to consumers and take advantage of the insights from the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information. The Report on "Policy Instruments on Product Lifetime Extension (PLE)" which was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> July was also discussed during the meeting. The report offers an overview of the policies and regulatory framework of PLE around the globe. It shows that the reality is different from country to country and that a one-size-fits-all horizontal approach to PLE policies might not be appropriate. It also concludes that policies alone might not be sufficient to reach consumers and that it is important to work with voluntary instruments to strengthen consumer awareness. The discussion also revolved on the preparation of the webinar on the role of consumers in product reparability.

The topics that will be addressed and discussed on the webinar are:

- Consumer's expectations about product lifetimes and attitudes toward product lifetime strategies.
- Perception of consumers of reparability and repaired products.
- Major barriers toward repair.
- Initiatives that aim to promote self-repair.

[LINK HERE](#)

### 4) EEG attends first GACERE meeting

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, EEG attended the first High-Level Meeting of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE). The Alliance, which is part of the European Union's Circular Economy Action Plan (March 2021), is pushing the agenda of adopting a circular economy to solve the three main environmental issues of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The meeting was co-organised by the EU, UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). This meeting provided GACERE members with the opportunity to take stock and highlight the work done by the Alliance since its inception in February 2021. Another highlight of the meeting was deciding the Alliance's role in line with major upcoming events including the COP15 on biodiversity and COP26 on climate change, as well as UNEA 5.2. The GACERE meeting also encouraged the advancement of a new legally binding agreement to combat plastic pollution and its transboundary nature. The keynote address was by a representative of the International Resource Panel titled 'Circular economy as a solution to the triple planetary crises and the potential role of GACERE'. Finally, the GACERE meeting facilitated discussions on how GACERE members can seamlessly transition to a more resource efficient and circular economy with the help of the Alliance.

### 5) Digital Transformation Conference for Environmental Sustainability Perspectives from the West Asia Region

EEG attended virtually the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia's first-ever Digital Transformation Conference for Environmental Sustainability in West Asia on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September, showcasing the application of advanced technologies in pursuit of achieving environmental sustainability, focusing on the West Asia Region. In this conference, local and national governments, UN Agencies, research institutions, private sector, civil society organisations and other stakeholders discuss clean technologies, digital tools and applications that can be adopted in the West Asia Region. This is with the goal of tackling the three planetary crises - climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution - as well as translating ambitions into real commitments and encouraging collaboration between all stakeholders, making use of the best scientific and technological innovations to address





pressing global and regional environmental challenges. The conference showcased innovations shared by the panelists, including monitoring systems from several West Asia countries, such as soil quality monitoring in UAE, air quality monitoring in Qatar, and the shifting towards circular economies in Jordan and Oman. The conference coordinator, concluded the event on behalf of UNEP's Representative and Regional Director for West Asia, echoing the commitments and efforts by governments, policy makers, strategic partners and other United Nations agencies to lead their communities to the digital culture within their respective sectors, revealing that the results of the interactive event may be a basis of the Region's "Digital Transformation Roadmap" and guide for a new sub-programme in UNEP, which is a Digital Transformation programme.

**WATCH HERE** 

#### 6) WBA's Launch of Food and Agriculture Benchmark

Emirates Environmental Group attended the session hosted by World Benchmark Alliance on 21<sup>st</sup> September titled "WBA's Launch of Food and Agriculture Benchmark" to gain more insight on the initiative by WBA to hold massive companies accountable for their contribution towards climate change and unequal distribution of resources. Farmers produce enough food to feed 1.5x of the world's population; which means there is enough food to feed 10 billion people, yet in the population of 7.6 billion as many as 811 million people go to bed hungry. World hunger is one of the biggest and most solvable issues in the world. Eradicating world hunger is one of the 17 agendas of the SDGs for the year 2030. WBA invited a set of esteemed and well-versed group of individual from various institutions working towards a more sustainable agriculture and food production to obtain the outlook of the panellists on the verdict for 350 of the world's biggest food and agriculture companies audited by WBA to measure their environmental, nutritional and social impact. These companies account for more than half of the world's food and agriculture revenue with over 23 million employees. Accountability of these companies is very crucial in order to be able to achieve the SDGs. The benchmarking showed some unpleasant results indicating poor approach of these companies towards the environment as well as human rights of the employees, about 65% of the companies failed to score above 25/100. All these companies need to be brought forward and educated towards a more sustainable attitude on food production and better labour laws for the employees.

#### 7) 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SDG Business Forum

Emirates Environmental Group attended a virtual forum on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 titled "Sixth Annual SDG Business Forum" hosted by Uniting Business LIVE and co-host by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Global Compact, making it one of the largest annual gatherings of business leaders at the United Nations. On the path towards achieving the Social Development Goals by the year 2030, COVID-19 created a barrier which caused the concentration flow of all the time and resources towards itself, causing loss of precious time and resources. However, as all countries work towards recovering from COVID-19 with resilience, United Nations has invited a number of well-versed speakers to this forum to share their insights on the themes of several United Nations conferences, including the High-Level Dialogue on Energy, the Food Systems Summit and the 2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, while building momentum for the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties. The main aim of this Forum is to invite accomplished people of the society to collaborate in creating lasting solution for some of the most pressing issues in today's time such as sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; climate change and nature loss; social inequality and economic exclusion. The objective of this Forum is to bring the world back on the trajectory towards achieving the 17 agendas by the end of this decade.

#### 8) United Nation Food Systems Summit

Emirates Environmental Group attended the virtual Summit delivered by the United Nations on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September titled "United Nation Food Systems Summit" to encourage the recovery of the time lost due to COVID-19 to bounce back on the path towards achieving the Social Development Goals by the year 2030. World hunger is a global problem, with a big chunk of the world's population going to sleep on an empty stomach despite there being enough food to feed more people than the population of the world. The UN Food Systems Summit served as a historic opportunity to empower all people to leverage the power of food systems to drive our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and get us back on track to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The main aim of the summit was to overcome the unequal distribution of the food resources, to emphasise the need to have a food systems framework in order to fulfil the second goal of zero hunger for the SDGs as well as, motivate and empower stakeholders who support food systems transformation through the development of improved tools, measurement, and analysis. By taking this initiative United Nation gives everyone an opportunity to assess the choices made by each individual and how it negatively impacts the climate change and other humans. The Summit process gave rise to several multi-stakeholders' initiatives led by civil society, farmers, women, youth and indigenous groups that Member States commit to in order to deliver on the priorities, needs, and gaps identified in national pathways.

#### 9) 155 CPR Meeting

As a long-standing member of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), EEG is delighted to attend the preparation and the actual 155<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Last month, the member states convened together on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September to address pressing environmental issues and the steps taken to resolve the same. On 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, the Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting took place on a virtual space. In brief, the Chair, shared key initiatives raised by different countries. Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution were amongst the main issues raised at the meeting. Actions taken by several countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Norway, Maldives, Chile, Portugal, Japan, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, and Vietnam were shared and a further urgent call to decide on UNEA 5.2, the need to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a global agreement. The key considerations raised by member states touched upon the need for coherent framework, to address the life cycle of plastic and immediate call for industry involvement and action plans to prevent and reduce marine litter. The session continued with the work undertaken by UNEP, followed by updates from UNEP representatives from various locations, concerns from certain member states and concluded with updates from UNEP science division and the future of UNEA Global Environment Outlook (GEO).

On 28<sup>th</sup> of September, EEG attended 155<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The meeting was held to ensure that all the member states are given an opportunity to agree or intervene in the various adoption of reports and agendas towards the upcoming events and project. The member states were provided with draft agenda, updates, and report by the director. Preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee Meeting and the draft updates for UNEA 5.2 were also addressed in this meeting. Many states addressed various other issues such as the importance of in person meetings, the realisation of resolution 73/333, progress towards Stockholm+50, Ministerial declaration, Marine Plastic Pollution, Chemical pollution, and management crisis and much more. Readers can find more information of the above meeting on UNEP website at <https://www.unep.org/>

#### 10) SDG Investment Fair 2021

EEG attended the SDG Investment Fair 2021 that was virtually organised by UNDESA from 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> September. The SDG Investment Fair aims to mobilise financing for development and scale up private sector participation in development financing through investments in SDG advancing projects mainly in developing countries. Since 2018, The Fair has been focused on an annual event where countries present investment projects that advance their SDG agenda to potential investors. The SDG Investment Fair is evolving from an annual event to a year-round programme. The Fair maintained its principal component of organising interactive events with prospective investors with the aim to facilitate deal making. The pool of investors includes Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance members, other institutional investors, infrastructure investors, international financial institutions and development banks among others. The platform facilitated knowledge sharing among countries as well as capacity building for the participating countries to increase their project preparation expertise thus increasing their attractiveness to investors. By introducing these elements into the programme, UNDESA aims to elongate and increase the contact between participating countries and investors to expedite investment and accelerate SDG progress.



### 11) EEG on Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee

On 18<sup>th</sup> September, Emirates Environmental Group has been confirmed as a Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee Member for the One Planet networks' Sustainable Food System (SFS) Programme. The term of the MAC member lasts for two years and offers the opportunity to be closely involved with driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, by supporting the implementation of key results of the UN Food Systems Summit. SFS Programme is a global multi-stakeholder partnership that aims to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems around the world, including by building synergies and strengthening collaborations among diverse partners at all levels. The MAC members role includes driving global, national and local action on the sustainable development agenda; to lead the change and contribute to setting the agenda on Sustainable Food Systems worldwide with the mandate of the United Nations; to contribute to increase body of work focused on sustainable food systems globally, provide relevant advice and feedback on the implementation of the SFS Programme activities, review goals, objectives and measures of success, based on the initial programme work plan, with the aim of providing guidance on progress towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns in food systems; and many others. The Programme has many years of experience in strengthening the common understanding of sustainable food systems, and promoting a holistic approach to food systems policy-making.

## WorldGBC Engagements

*In the month of September, EEG participated in a several of WorldGBC engagements:*

### 1) WorldGBC Net Zero Carbon Building Commitment

EEG Chairperson attended the World Green Building Council's "Net Zero Carbon Commitment" webinar on 6<sup>th</sup> September. The webinar was an update session made for WorldGBC Board of Directors to keep all relevant parties aware of the importance of bringing efforts into the commitment of net zero carbon buildings. The purpose of the discussion was to share details upon the Net Zero commitment updates, which included latest changes to the final document, international standards, best practices and actions, green investment initiative, etc. The session started with an overview on the Net Zero Carbon commitment and highlighted the continuous growth in the global building's industry stock market. The session stated the need to setting out common standards, best practices and actions to reduce carbon emissions which are declared and followed internationally. The percentage of implementing the guidance will vary region to region, country to country, yet clear global commitment will provide opportunities to either eliminate/ prevent carbon emissions or to compensate/neutralise unavoidable emissions. In addition, considering science based targets and nature based solutions will boost the carbon emissions reduction. The Net Zero Carbon Building Commitment document will be circulated to board of directors for review and comment before it gets published, as opinions from different perspectives will contribute in the enrichment of the final paper.

### 2) WorldGBC Board of Directors

The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) is a body that catalyses the uptake of sustainable buildings for everyone, everywhere. Transforming the building and construction sector across three strategic areas—climate action, health & wellbeing, and resources & circularity—we are a global action network comprised of around 70 Green Building Councils around the globe. In line with their VMVs, Mrs. Habiba Al Marashi a member of the board of Directors of WorldGBC attended on 8<sup>th</sup> September the Board meeting. It started with a warm welcome from WorldGBC Chair. The meeting then move on to discuss the 2021 annual plan progress and strategies and the 2022 Planning of WorldGBC Strategy longevity and continuous improvement, priorities and annual plan, and the draft budget for the upcoming year. The 2022 Annual Plan aims to provide continuity for WorldGBC's 2021 priorities and leverages their successes in 2021 to scale up the impact. The board also discussed that following on from the Board meeting that took place on 30<sup>th</sup> June, WorldGBC will undergo a governance review and update to reflect the growth of the network and remove any barriers to success for WorldGBC and its members. The 2021 progress and priorities of each Regional Green Building Councils were also discussed during the meeting.

### 3) World GBC's Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting

EEG Chairperson and WorldGBC's Director and Board Member, Mrs. Habiba Al Marashi, attended on 15<sup>th</sup> September the WorldGBC's Corporate Advisory Board Meeting. Corporate Advisory Board is a select group of companies which are global leaders on sustainability, and which serve to guide WorldGBC on its strategy and activities. It is with the support of the Corporate Advisory Board that WorldGBC can advance green buildings as an effective solution to environmental, social and economic issues, and help member Green Building Councils to grow and flourish. The Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) also assists to facilitate the identification of disruptive innovations and ideas that could provide opportunities for systemic change that could be scaled up through WorldGBC network to deliver on their 2030 goals. The meeting discussed the challenges that the CAB members' businesses are facing in implementing their sustainability commitments and the strategies to how best to overcome them. The members also discussed the disruptive innovations that would facilitate the process and the lessons that could be shared within the WorldGBC network. In addition, the members discussed the arising opportunities that WorldGBC and its GBCs could embrace in 2022 and beyond. During the meeting WorldGBC announced the release of the updated Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment. The Commitment requires that for all new developments and major renovations, in addition to addressing operational carbon, entities must achieve maximum reductions in embodied carbon across the building lifecycle, and compensate for residual upfront emissions.

[READ MORE](#)

## 7<sup>th</sup> September *Air Quality Beyond Borders*

As part of the "International day of clean air for blue skies", The European Union's Delegation to the UAE, In the context of the "European Green Deal" & The Embassy of Switzerland to the UAE and Bahrain launched an online virtual discussion which EEG attended on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The event is dedicated to healthy air and healthy planet, and how to work together to solve the air pollution issue. The Embassy of Switzerland in the UAE was glad to exchange bilaterally and in multi-stakeholder platforms on policies implementation and resolutions. In the Middle East, the effect of all the particulates in the dirty air is on solar power and thus solar power stations on places like the UAE and other desert areas have both particulates from windblown desert dust and it is difficult to get enough water to clean them. The UAE noticed the significant role of air quality in supporting an overall healthy and sustainable life for its citizens and gave air quality a high priority under its national agenda leading to its vision of 2021. The purpose of the UAE Air quality strategy (2021 - 2031) is to lead and contribute to actions from the federal and local institutions to streamline monitoring and management of air quality and effective mitigation of pollution. The UAE submitted a second nationally determined contribution to the UN which contains for the first time a nationwide greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 23.5% by 2030. Several initiatives to improve air quality in Abu Dhabi were the sustainable service transport master plan, Abu Dhabi low emission vehicle strategy, low emission government study, ultra-low sulfur diesel, charging electrical vehicle, and walking/ cycling master plan.



**9<sup>th</sup>**  
September

## Virtual Policy Council: Recovering Better - A Green, Resilient and Just Recovery in the Middle East

EEG Chairperson participated in a virtual policy council roundtable titled “Recovering Better - A Green, Resilient and Just Recovery in the Middle East”, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September organised by Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG). The aim of the discussion was to obtain inputs from various regional stakeholders on post-COVID-19 policies and finance for a green, resilient and just future in the Middle East that align with the region’s specific circumstances and sustainable development needs. The roundtable started with a short presentation by the MBRSG project team on the research project findings regarding ‘best practice’ in recovery policies. The remainder of the session was dedicated to the discussion. EEG Chairperson fully agreed with the policy paper that there should be three objectives to recovery in the Middle East:

1. Just: ensuring that no-one is left behind in the green transition, and promoting equity and decent jobs for everyone;
2. Green: aligning greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with climate-safe trajectories and promoting circular economies; and
3. Resilient: boosting societies’ resilience to climate and environmental risks, and social and economic resilience to clean energy and production transitions.

The Chairperson also added that the pandemic caused the world’s worst global recession since the second world war, with deep contractions across the region which was partly because of sharp cuts in oil production as lockdowns caused demand to drop substantially. She then elaborated and gave strong points of discussion on the three objectives that she agreed on. Indeed, the region is at risk of missing a crucial one-off opportunity. The only way to achieve sustainable development is to ensure that policies and investments in the recovery phase lay the foundation for cleaner and more resilient, prosperous and equal societies.

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
September

## Al Shaya Tree Planting

Emirates Environmental Group continues its dedication to conserve and protect the environment through all means by involving different parties and sectors of the community to take action and participate through its various environmental projects. One of EEG’s main projects is “Adoption of Trees”, this project lies under the slogan of “For Our Emirates We Plant”; it is designed to ensure that UAE moves steadily towards sustainable development and contributes effectively in the protected areas. Sustainable development can only be attained when entities work together in harmony with nature, therefore, the Al Shaya group has taken the step to give something back to the environment and joined hands with EEG to collaborate in conducting a tree planting activity on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 by adopting and planting 500 indigenous trees at Al Minae - (Skheibar Area) South of Ras Al Khaimah under the Patronage and in the presence of H.E Sheikh Salem Bin Saqr Al Qasimi. Al Shaya group is one of the world’s leading brand franchise operators offering an unparalleled choice of well-loved international brands to customers, it is a dynamic family-owned enterprise established in Kuwait. The Tree planting activity was carried out successfully with the active participation of more than 200 people representing the Al Shaya Group, EEG team, and volunteers from the Emirates Lions Club. “Adoption of Trees” Project has gained huge success spreading the awareness about the importance of trees and the positive outcomes that follows up regarding achieving UN SDG goals 13 (Climate Change), 15 (Life on Land), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Upon the completion of the activity, EEG will carry out 3 more activities by the end of this year thus successfully planting 2,101,518 native trees since the inception of this programme in 2007.



**25<sup>th</sup>**  
September

## Massaed’s 13<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, Massaed celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a unique environmental way by adopting and planting 13 indigenous trees representing every year since their establishment. Massaed is a solution provider for design, supply, installation, maintenance, repair and modernization of elevators and escalator, it is established in 2008 in United Arab Emirates. The tree planting took place in Al Minae Al Minae - (Skheibar Area) South Ras Al Khaimah under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Skheikh Salem Bin Saqr Al Qasimi. Massaed managed to plant these trees with the support of the EEG team. Emirates Environmental Group and with the constant support and active engagement of the private corporates has successfully managed to plant 2,101,589 indigenous trees therefore, increasing the green space in the UAE as well as mitigating carbon emission.



**29<sup>th</sup>**  
September

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Business Groups & Business Councils Roundtable Discussion

EEG attended on 29<sup>th</sup> September the Dubai Chamber’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Business Groups & Business Councils Roundtable Discussion for 2021. The roundtable discussed the Future Growth Forum findings. The Future Growth Forum is a high-level event, which was initiated following the recent directives of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, to reduce government-related procedures for businesses by 30% over the next three months, identified and discussed prospects that could drive future economic growth in Dubai. It was discussed that the Forum to provide seamless and close cooperation between public and private sector stakeholders and to also support Dubai Chamber’s efforts to advocate on behalf of business interests, identify existing challenges facing companies and share their concerns with relevant government entities that can address them swiftly and effectively.

Dubai Chamber’s participation at Expo 2020 was also discussed wherein they already started seeing VIPs increased interest in Dubai’s business ecosystem from across the globe to visit the Expo 2020. They have discussed that they will reach out to its partners in support to reach the ambitious goals set by Dubai Economic Acceleration Unit, Dubai Chamber, along with Dubai Tourism, is working on a project to streamline the experience for potential investors in supporting their plans for Dubai.



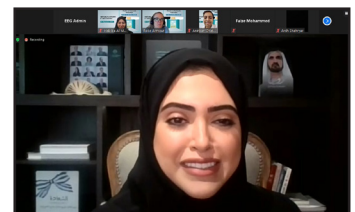
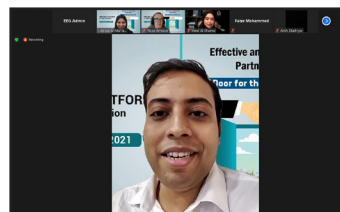


## Effective & Sustainable Partnership: A Door for the Next Generation

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021, EEG organised its 4<sup>th</sup> Panel Discussion entitled “Effective & Sustainable Partnership: A Door for the Next Generation” to understand the urgency of the SDGs agendas set for the year 2030 and the importance of partnership in order to achieve the goal in due time. The panel commenced with EEG’s Chairperson talking about the concept of the global ripple effect, where a negative or positive effect in one area can have its consequences in another. She further went on to encourage the idea of sustainability as a normal norm and part of day to day in the society, rather than a cry for help in times of crisis. To further add to this idea, EEG invited a gender-diverse group of panelists consisting of Ms. Sabine Sakr, the Regional Development Coordinator at United Nations Environment Programme West Asia Office, Ms. Hind Al Shamsi, the Acting Director of the Industrial Statistics Department at the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center (FCSC) affiliated with the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, Ms. Rose Armour, the Head of AUS Sustainability at American University of Sharjah, and Mr. Anirban, the Head of Business Development, Sales & Marketing - India & Middle East at DNV.

Ms. Sabine Sakr started by pointing out the importance of having affiliations that UNEP has formed over time with different countries to assist them with the implementation and strategising of the policies. She also mentioned the challenges that UNEP faces, especially for the countries with conflict where working on ground is not an option. For such cases, UNEP has partnered with strong and reliable entities that support them with the implementation of environment laws and help them understand the requirements and priorities to be able to cater to their needs. Ms. Hind Al Shamsi then went on to talk about the symmetry between the vision of UAE and the 17 agendas as well as UAE’s achievement and progress on the journey towards achieving the SDGs by establishing a committee comprising individuals from various ministries and sectors to work towards accomplishing their desired goals. She also briefly talked about UAE’s goal towards becoming one of the best places in the world to reside in by the year 2070. Keeping this objective in mind, the goal of achieving SDGs by the year 2030 is a stepping stone towards its great vision of 2070.

Ms. Rose shed some light on the significance of the role of higher education and working towards creating a sustainable mindset within the youth and training them to advance with the idea of SDGs. Furthermore, she also talked about the interconnectedness of all the SDGs, where lack of advancement in one agenda can greatly impact the progress of another. She also discussed the importance of companies portraying good modeling behavior for the young graduates. Finally, Mr. Anirban stressed on the establishment of the 3 pillars of connection, capability and innovation in order to be on the path towards achieving Net Zero Carbon emission by the year 2030. To conclude, each speaker consistently emphasised the importance of partnership, not only between countries but alliances also with individual members of society to be able to achieve the set goals.



## Educational News

### 21<sup>st</sup> Cycle of the Students' Workshops

Educating the youth on Sustainable Development and its related subjects gives hope of a sustainable future. People around the world need to recognise that current economic development trends are not sustainable, and that public awareness, education and training are a key to moving society towards sustainability. This “Education for a Sustainable Future” is a transformative learning process that equips students, teachers and school systems to innovative ways of thinking that is needed to achieve economic prosperity and responsible citizenships while restoring the health of the ecosystem. EEG with the Students Workshop series aims to provide an ideal platform for embedding sustainable development into everyday learning process. The 21<sup>st</sup> cycle of the Students Workshop is scheduled from 25<sup>th</sup> October to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 under the theme “**Tale of Unequivocal Provider: The Abode of Life**” The online workshop will encompass activities that test the students on their knowledge of solutions derived from nature and the necessity of working with the ecosystem and local entities for a greener way out.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

### Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition

With an aim to empower the youth with the knowledge, attitudes, motivations, commitments and skills to solve and prevent the world's pressing environmental problems EEG will be hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> cycle of the Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition (ICEPSC) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> of November as a hybrid event. The competition is significant in the sense that it provides an ideal platform to the Youth of the Arab region to critically analyse environmental issues and provide solution based presentations.

Registrations are being accepted, but seats are limited. So ensure to reserve your seat by registering on:

[CLICK HERE](#)

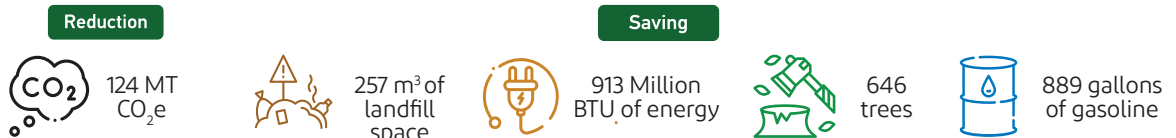


## Neighbourhood Recycling Project

The 11<sup>th</sup> cycle of the “Neighbourhood Recycling Project” (NRP) opened on 1st June and concluded on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. We are grateful to all the Students for coming forward to contribute towards Sustainable Future! This resulted in the collection of



The contribution transpired in



For the 11<sup>th</sup> cycle of the NRP programme, a total of 162 trees will be planted by the participants under their names to mark their noble efforts on 21.12.21. Congratulations to our Eco Warriors!

## Upcoming Events

### Can Collection Drive 2021

The “Can Collection Campaign” was EEG’s first environmental action oriented programme initiated in September 1997, it gained tremendous support from all sectors of the society; be it government, private sector, academic institutions or families. EEG has been successfully running this campaign for the last 24 years! The upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Can Collection Drive will taking place on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021. EEG managed in 2020 to collect a total of **11,674 kg Aluminium Cans** for recycling. This has led to the mitigation of **175.2 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e**, **2657 Million BTU** (Energy saving) and **283.3 m<sup>3</sup> landfill space**. In 2021, amidst the challenges posed by the on-going pandemic, we are still witnessing great determination from the people who participated in the said campaign in the past. We urge all our members, readers and well-wishers to rally and support this campaign to enable us to beat the pandemic and come out at environmental champions.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



### Join EEG's 20<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Clean Up UAE!

Launched in 2002, the 2021 cycle of Clean Up UAE will be the 20<sup>th</sup> edition. It has grown and become a symbol to celebrate the unique environment of the country and mobilise mass support for its preservation. This campaign has grown exponentially in scope and reach to cover some of the remotest corners of the UAE. The campaign in 2021 will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 till 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 all over UAE.

For Participants: Please click here to register:

[REGISTER NOW](#)



### One Root, One Communi-tree Phase 2

The One Root, One Communi-tree endorses UN SDG's #11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17.

Phase 2, opened on 21<sup>st</sup> July with the main objective of diverting waste materials such as Plastics, Papers, Aluminium Cans, Glass, Toner Cartridges, E-waste and Mobile Phones away from landfills while engaging communities and giving the participants a chance to plant native trees and increase the biodiversity of the UAE. The current cycle has registered 287 participants so far. We request everyone in the UAE to take part in the afforestation efforts to combat desertification and reduce impacts of climate change. To participate, please register on

[REGISTER NOW](#)







## WOCAT and UNCCD review the assessment tool for gender-responsive SLM technologies

UNCCD  
NEWS

On 14-15 September 2021, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) and UNCCD conducted an expert review workshop to fine-tune the jointly developed methodology used to assess gender-responsiveness of the sustainable land management (SLM) technologies. The UNCCD Gender Action Plan (GAP) emphasises that gender equality and women's empowerment are key to the implementation of the Convention. The joint project on gender-responsive SLM technologies and approaches launched by UNCCD and WOCAT in 2020 focuses on one of the four priority areas for action outlined in the GAP - enhancing women's access to leading SLM technologies that effectively support UNCCD implementation. The event facilitated an exchange between experts and practitioners from a variety of regions and organisations who addressed a number of technical and practical questions including the regional relevance of the methodology as well as the challenges and benefits of its application. Considering the tool's potential impact on the ground, participants also discussed how it can contribute to tackling the wider gender-related issues as well as what data it could generate to support policy decisions.



## COVID-19 caused only a temporary reduction in carbon emissions

UNEP  
NEWS

"This is a critical year for climate action. This report by the United Nations and global scientific partner organisations provides a holistic assessment of the most recent climate science. The result is an alarming appraisal of just how far off course we are," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. COVID-19 did not slow the relentless advance of climate change. There is no sign that we are growing back greener, as carbon dioxide emissions are rapidly recovering after a temporary blip due to the economic slowdown and are nowhere close to reduction targets. Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere continue at record levels, committing the planet to a dangerous future warming, according to a new multi-agency United in Science 2021 report. The United in Science 2021 report, the third in a series, is coordinated by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), with input from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Global Carbon Project (GCP), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Met Office (UK). It presents the very latest scientific data and findings related to climate change to inform global policy and action.

[Click for more](#)



## IUCN New Leadership

IUCN  
NEWS

Members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) elected Ms. Razan Al Mubarak as the new President of the IUCN at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille that took place from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> September. Ms. Al Mubarak is the first IUCN president from the Arab Region and the second woman elected to lead the organisation in its 72-year history. IUCN Members also elected the Treasurer, Commission Chairs and Regional Councillors across eight global regions. Dr. Sheikha Al Dhaheri was re-elected as the Regional Councillor for West Asia Region. Members elected the Chairs of IUCN's Commissions, which bring together 18,000 volunteer experts from around the world in a range of disciplines from species conservation to environmental law and protected area management. The Commissions assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with expert knowledge and policy advice on conservation issues. Twenty-eight Regional Councillors were elected for Africa, Meso and South America, North America and the Caribbean, South and East Asia, West Asia, Oceania, East Europe, North and Central Asia and West Europe regions. Regional Councillors act as IUCN ambassadors, working to serve the interests and mission of IUCN and inform the Council on the interests, priorities and needs of IUCN Members in their regions.

## EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 13 new student members, 10 renewed student members, 1 new academic member  
& 1 renewed academic member in the month of September 2021

### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Rajkumar Sundaresan	New	Peha Kundra	New
Varnith Prakash	New	Advika Choudhary	Renewal
Tanishqa Sherigar	New	Vedant Choudhary	Renewal
Akuratiya Gamage Hanani Anna	New	Evelyn Binu Mathew	Renewal
Shreyash Agarwal	New	Rithvik Ramesh Kumar	Renewal
Aadya Agarwal	New	Bhakti Venkatesh Hegde	Renewal
Ariand Prakash	New	Shahd Madani	Renewal
Arvind Prakash	New	Fida Mohammed Shebeaun	Renewal
Nikhita Singh	New	Fadi Mohammed Shebeaun	Renewal
Samvida Girish	New	Anshuman Rath	Renewal
Diya Shah	New	Alina Abdul Kader	Renewal
Srihari Rajkumar	New	-	-

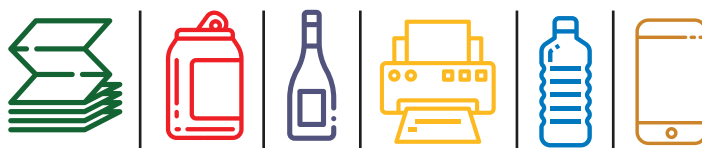
### ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

Deira Private School	New	Our Own High School Al Warqaa Dubai	Renewal
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The collection of materials for recycling in the month of September resulted in the following benefits:

- » GHG Reductions 460 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>)
- » Saving of 3,253 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 871 m3 of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 1,939 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 265 Gallons of Gasoline



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>112,926</b> kg of Paper from <b>238</b> participants during the month of September 2021, an increase of <b>18%</b> compared to August 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:	Philedelphia Private School	5,220	Nia Treeza Tony	6,890
	Delhi Private School Dubai	5,085	Justin Shino Chacko	2,765
	Our Own High School, Al Warqaa	2,140	Aarika Ajesh	1,160
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected <b>109</b> kg of Aluminum Cans from <b>13</b> participants during the month of September 2021, a decrease of <b>21%</b> compared to August 2021. We urge our participants to put more efforts to help us achieve the set targets for the year 2021. The top collectors for the month were:	-	-	Arya Ajesh	46
	-	-	Shuvangee Seth	15
	-	-	-	-
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>11,645</b> kg of Plastic from <b>154</b> participants during the month of September 2021, an increase of <b>48%</b> compared to August 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:	The School of Research Science	310	Amal Saeed Al Shamsi	310
	Our Own High School, Al Warqaa	255	Dave Clausen Pais	156
	Delhi Private School Sharjah	140	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Al Dhanhani	140
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected <b>531</b> pieces of Toners from <b>18</b> participants during the month of September 2021, an increase of <b>43%</b> compared to August 2021. We encourage our participants to be more active in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	Cambridge International School	30	Bhakti Venkatesh Hegde	150
	-	-	Eleena Prathap Singh	70
	-	-	Aniketh Srinivasa Kini	58
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected <b>24</b> pieces of Mobile Phones from <b>4</b> participants during the month of September 2021, a decrease of <b>96%</b> compared to August 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:	-	-	Shafeeka Jamal	17
	-	-	-	-
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>6,626</b> kg of Glass Bottles from <b>41</b> participants during the month of September 2021, an increase of <b>140%</b> compared to August 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:	American University of Sharjah	20	Hassan Abdullah Hassan	90
	-	-	Arnav Jain	71
	-	-	Prakash Adthni & Riddhi Agarwal (Tie)	39
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>754</b> kg of E-waste from <b>10</b> participants during the month of September 2021, an increase of <b>125%</b> compared to August 2021. We encourage our participants to continue collecting in the year 2021. The Top collectors were:	-	-	Shafeeka Jamal	96
	-	-	Veda Dinesh	53
	-	-	Pranjal Pandey	41
SCRAP COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>48</b> kg of Scrap metals from <b>6</b> participants during the month of September 2021, an increase of <b>1100%</b> compared to August 2021. We invite and encourage our participants to put more effort and to join this new programme. The Top collector was:	-	-	Shafeeka Jamal	13

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.

