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21.12.2021



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## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Hello EEG members, followers and readers,

As December 2021 is about to start and another year draws to a close, we are not COVID-19 free and still grappling with issues related to reopening societies to pre COVID-19 norms. At EEG we have not allowed COVID-19 to stand in the way of interacting and encouraging participation in our different programmes. EEG is proud that the November EEG Inter College Public Speaking Competition proved just how successful an event can be, by creating a hybrid platform for participation. If COVID-19 taught us one really important thing, it is that the world is more interdependent than we once thought. No country operates in isolation and the borders of a country are not impermeable. The environment also knows no borders and what we do here, is just as relevant and important as others do elsewhere.

EEG started the Can Collection Campaign in September 1997, with the Can Collection Drive taking place on 6 November to conclude the 25<sup>th</sup> cycle; it was really a very important milestone on the national level. During this year's drive, more than 6 tons of cans were collected for recycling making this event a real success especially during the COVID-19 era. (More details on page 5).

During the 21st cycle of the Inter College Public Speaking Competition that took place on 23-24 November at the Knowledge Park, 73 teams participated, with 25 teams participating virtually and 48 teams presenting in person. Both virtual and in person presentations all addressed topics relevant to everyone, and showed how the whole world is facing the same issues and looking for the constructive solutions.

While the Inter College Public Speaking Competition and the Can Collection Drive were November's two biggest public events, EEG also attended, and participated in, an Open Day at Arcadia School, where students, teachers, parents and visitors were introduced to EEG and it was very clear that there is a real interest in, and a desire for, a new way to face the future.

In addition to the above, EEG attended and participated in various local and international meetings including, a virtual Business Ambition for Climate Change forum arranged by the United Nations Global Impact section on 10<sup>th</sup> November. This meeting led to a strong message being delivered that governments have a real important and urgent responsibility to lead society with policies that will address Climate Change concerns.

On 12<sup>th</sup> November EEG contributed to the Emirates Green Building Council meeting by discussing and reflecting on the past 15 years of the Green Building movement in the UAE and on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November

the EEG Chairperson was awarded the Zurich Sustainability Heroes award for excellent leadership in sustainability and environmental protection.

November was also a month where UNEP held training related to appropriate product labeling, to allow consumers to make more responsible choices, this helped add to the intellectual capacity of EEG. Without relevant and readily available information, consumers often make bad decisions. It is essential that consumers be given enough information regarding the products they consume, so that they understand the full consequences of their choices. Not only is it important to inform consumers regarding the source of products, but the end of life cycle related to products, are just as important. Transparency and clarity cannot be overstressed when one considers labeling of products.

As we head towards December, EEG is busy preparing for December programmes and projects, to ensure that the 'For Our Emirates We Plant' and the 'Clean Up UAE' Campaigns scheduled for December, are huge successes too. The Adopt a Tree programme is one that allows those who cannot fully participate in our recycling campaigns, to show their concern for and commitment to, the greening of our environment, by committing to planting native trees under their names. Planting trees and increasing the green spaces been proven to be the most effective ways to stop soil erosion, mitigate green-house gasses, clean the air, provide homes and shelter for wild life, lower temperatures and provide mental health benefits.

We are also eager to see how our EEG Student members will embrace our 'Green December' initiative that encourages real concerted efforts, to collect as much recyclable materials as possible. Collecting and recycling waste products prevents valuable materials from finding their way to either landfills, or our oceans. It is estimated that more than 75% of materials landing up in our oceans, could have been recycled, if they had been collected, sorted and delivered to appropriate recycling agencies. Recycling is essentially about not sourcing virgin materials that cannot be replenished naturally, and about ensuring that materials no longer required, do not become hazardous to our environment. Landfilling is not just about the space being used to bury waste, but is also about the toxins that leech into the environment from the buried waste and the gasses that enter our atmosphere as the buried waste decomposes.

While the weather is currently really wonderful, I take this opportunity to encourage everyone to get outdoors and enjoy all the amazing gifts that nature is giving us, and to remember that it is the responsibility of each and every one to ensure that future generations will still be able to enjoy all that we have today.



## EmiratesGBC Engagements

*In the month of November, EEG participated in several of EmiratesGBC engagements:*

### 1) The 10<sup>th</sup> EGBC Annual Congress

EEG Chairperson and EGBC Co-Founder & Treasurer, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual EmiratesGBC Congress, held under the theme '15 years of EmiratesGBC: From Green Buildings towards Sustainable Cities 2030.' on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The Congress brought together industry stakeholders from across the world, underlined the need for collective action to support the UAE's Net Zero target by 2050 Strategic Initiative and discussed wide-ranging measures to promote circular economy to enable building healthy and sustainable cities. Held under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment, the Congress discussed the latest innovations for driving sustainability in the built environment and promoted discussion between industry and government stakeholders.

EEG Chairperson spoke in a panel on "15 years of EmiratesGBC to reflect on the Green Building Movement in the UAE", which was aimed to discuss the longstanding contributors to the Green Building Movement in the UAE reflecting on the journey and growth of the UAE and achievements in embedding sustainability and some of the challenges that still remain. EEG Chairperson focussed on the importance of NGOs and the work they have done to develop the green building sector, globally in general and the UAE in particular. Complementing the UAE's vision to promote energy transition, EEG Chairperson moderated one of the key panel discussions on 'Towards 2030: UAE policy & the Roadmap for Sustainable Cities,' which discussed the green building regulations and policies in place today and how it will support the sector to reach net zero targets and create resilient healthy sustainable cities. EmiratesGBC regularly hosts and participates in multinational events, conferences and forums. It has also developed a suite of activities, inclusive of networking events, technical workshops, focus days and facilitated training based around specific issues related to the built-environment that meet the needs of its members of the UAE community and the wider Middle East.

### 2) EGBC's Embodied Carbon Working Group

EEG attended on 11<sup>th</sup> November the 3<sup>rd</sup> EGBC Embodied Carbon Working Group. The discussions revolved around the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) benchmarking, whereby EGBC management is looking for a recommendation from the Working Group to collaborate with IStructE. The Institution of Structural Engineers is the world's leading professional body for structural engineering. Founded in 1908, the Institution has more than 22,000 members now in 109 countries. Its aim is to promote excellence in structural engineering and its members are recognised as leaders for their technical and professional expertise. The Institution of Structural Engineers has a dual role and twin aims; those of a learned society and as a qualifying body for the profession. Its aims are 'to promote the science and art of structural engineering and the achievement of excellence in construction, and to further the education and competence of its members. IStructE is planning on collecting project data such as the major structural materials (concrete, rebar, etc) and other project characteristics for different building typologies. This will be used to assess the embodied carbon of buildings in the UAE, therefore allowing the benchmark to be formed for different building typologies in the UAE and will allow future new buildings to set carbon reduction targets and will also support UAE in decarbonisation.

### 3) 2021 MENA Green Building Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner

EmiratesGBC, an independent forum aimed at conserving the environment by strengthening and promoting green building practices, held its 2021 MENA Green Building Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner on 24<sup>th</sup> November, endorsed by the World Green Building Council and in association with 6 Green Building Councils in the Arab Region. The Awards honoured the region's leaders in driving innovation and best practices in sustainable built environment at the 10<sup>th</sup> MENA Green Building Awards. EEG Chairperson, in her capacity as EGBC's Co-Founder & Treasurer was also present on the special day. Recognising excellence and best practice across the design, construction and operation of building projects in the MENA region, the awards aim to strengthen the green building movement in the region by honouring the outstanding work of private and public sector entities, associations, consultants as well as green building and sustainability practitioners. The winners were announced at a colourful gala ceremony and awards dinner held at the Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina. EmiratesGBC aims to widen the scope of sustainability within the real estate sector in the MENA region through the Annual EmiratesGBC Congress, dedicated research, technical trainings and programmes that empower the private and public sector entities, associations, consultants as well as green building and sustainability practitioners.

## UN Engagements

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

### 1) Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information

EEG joined a virtual training sessions on 8<sup>th</sup> November entitled "Train-the-Trainer "capacity building workshop making reliable claims and applying the 'Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information' organised by UNEP to discuss the need for customer information regarding sustainability and the access to this information via product labelling. UNEP opened the training session by outlining the importance of building capacity to change consumer habits. The role of educating and creating awareness was identified as central to changing consumer habits. It then moved on to a brief introduction of basic data related to product labelling and the five Fundamental and five Aspirational principles that have been developed as a tool to assist with the creation of product labels that will allow consumers to make better sustainable decisions. To allow all participants to fully grasp the importance, especially the five Fundamental requirements for all product labels to adhere to, participants were divided into breakout groups to discuss a specific product label and to come up with ideas regarding how the product label could be improved, to ensure that consumers are fully informed.

The aim of UNEP at present is to ensure that all labels adhere to all five Fundamental principles and that the five Aspirational principles be seen as future additional requirements. The Five Fundamental Principles are: Reliability of information, Relevance of information, Clarity of information, Transparency and Accessibility of information. The Aspirations principles cover aspects related to: Behavioural change, Multi Channels of information sharing, Innovative appeal and Comparability. The workshop, discussions and presentations were all very informative and gave a solid base for further discussions related to product labelling and consumer purchasing. Details regarding the said training can be accessed directly from <https://www.unep.org/>

### 2) Business Ambition for Climate Action

Taking place during the high-level week of COP26, EEG attended on 10<sup>th</sup> November the Business Ambition for Climate Action organised by United Nations Global Compact. It featured leading Chief Executives, corporate sustainability experts and business leaders, plus heads of UN agencies and civil society organisations, who all came together to showcase concrete actions for a net-zero economy, to increase society's resilience and highlight strategies to unlock climate finance. The event aimed to mobilise and unite business for a better world to deal with the climate emergency. The event featured thoughtful plenary sessions, including the 9<sup>th</sup> annual High-Level Meeting on Caring for Climate meeting live from COP26, breakout sessions and thematic deep dives and exclusive networking opportunities. The session also brought forward a strong business message of climate ambition on climate finance, resilience and enabling a just transition for all sectors. Executive leaders representing initiatives such as the Race to Zero, Business Ambition for 1.5°C, Race to Resilience and the UN-convened Net-Zero Banking Alliance. They all engaged in an interactive dialogue, presenting announcements tackling today's twin crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency. It was also discussed that the viability of our societies depends on leaders from



government, business and civil society uniting behind policies, actions and investments that will limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. We owe this to the entire human family, especially the poorest and most vulnerable communities and nations that are the hardest hit despite being least responsible for today's climate emergency. The role of business to help us adapt is more urgent than ever, as we face the impacts of climate change. A just transition is critical, as governments look to restart their economies following the devastation from COVID-19.

### 3) EEG Attends Second Substantive Meeting on UNGA Resolution 73/333

From the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, EEG attended virtually the Second Substantive Consultation Meeting on the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/333. This meeting entitled, "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established according to General Assembly resolution 72/277". It was organised in a hybrid format with Member States and stakeholders attending in-person at Nairobi and others through the online portal. This meeting focused on the draft of the Political Declaration that will be presented at the United Nations Environment Assembly 5.2 in February 2022. Member States, Members of Specialised Agencies, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organisations, secretariats of multilateral environment agreements and non-governmental organisations attended this meeting to provide their interventions for the formulation of the Political Declaration.

The largest chunk of the meeting was dedicated to the consideration of the Political Declaration that was reviewed line by line with interventions from almost all Member States and stakeholders attending. This is a highly important document as under General Assembly resolution 73/333 of 30th August 2019, UNEA has to prepare, at its 5th session, "a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The Future We Want".

### 4) Product Lifetime Extension Working Group Meeting

EEG attended on 18<sup>th</sup> November the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Product Lifetime Extension Working Group via webinar organised by UNEP. This Group aims to build a critical mass of engagement within and across different sectors (private, public and civil society) to raise awareness and engage consumers on product lifetime extension. The meeting focused on results from surveys on consumption and circular economy in Latin America as well as the insights to product lifetime extension strategies. There was also an enlightening discussion on a potential project of assurance of quality of second-hand goods.

The survey that was highlighted consisted of 82 questions and focused on behavioural economics as an incentivised experiment. It studied repair-buy decisions of consumers, while reporting on their self-reported behaviours, attitudes and beliefs. A few key takeaways from the analysis of the survey are as follows:

1. The promotion of eco-centric beliefs can encourage circularity behaviours
2. When it came to consumer segmentation, it was found that there was a clear female symmetry that favoured circularity

The next presentation focused on the used or second-hand product market, but it was found that it has several disadvantages such as: the lack of warranties, limited choice, confusion as to what happens when a product fails and more. The speaker explained that product-reuse is essential as it:

1. Is a form of Product Lifetime Extension (PLE)
2. Is environmentally friendly
3. Increases the efficiency of materials and energy use

### 5) Transforming Food Systems and Combating Climate Change: A Virtual Event Post-COP26 and Beyond

The dependence of global food systems on fossil fuels contributes to GHG emissions and may increase input costs to the extent that they become unaffordable. Agriculture is linked with intensifying climate change due to livestock production, fertiliser application and deforestation for farm expansion. On the other hand, food systems are highly vulnerable to climate change as weather patterns become more volatile, causing land degradation and erosion. Yields are also impacted by increasing day-night temperature variations.

This vulnerability is exacerbated by less-diverse food demand, which decreases biodiversity while increasing the number of outbreaks of transboundary pests and diseases, further jeopardizing food security. Following the COP26 summit to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), EEG attended a virtual event on 18<sup>th</sup> November organised by UN Food System Summit to underscore the inextricable link between climate and food, building on the outcome of both the UNFSS and COP26 and looking into the next year's COP27. Specifically, the event discussed the main outcomes of the COP26 and its implications to food systems transformation, identified specific policy and institutional entry points where Climate Convention can support transformations for more sustainable food systems and vice-versa. It explored how to mainstream food system issues national UNFCCC instruments such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), building on its existing mechanisms and processes. The expected outcome will indicate and galvanise broad support and commitment to collaborate, including driving a policy/political support on the need to foster linkages and action in support of both the food systems and climate agenda.

### 6) Capacity-Building Workshops for UNEP

EEG attended on 24<sup>th</sup> November a regional capacity-building workshop for UNEP Major Groups stakeholders that informed participants about the resumed session of United Nations Environment Assembly-UNEA 5.2 that will be held from 28 February to 2 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya. It included matters pertaining to UNEP@50, Stockholm+50, and Towards Resolution 73/333, "Strengthening Environmental Governance and Law," Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future (SF), with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Civil Society Unit in Nairobi. Focused on the run-up to UNEA 5.2, the resumed session of UNEA-5, the webinars also included content relevant to the Special Session of the Assembly that will be held on 3 - 4 March 2022, which is devoted to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UN Environment Programme in 1972 - UNEP@50. The webinars also highlighted the related and upcoming Stockholm+50 meeting, convened by the United Nations General Assembly and hosted by the governments of Sweden and Kenya, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden from 2-3 June 2022 to commemorate the 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which made the environment a pressing global issue for the first time.

### 7) SFS Programme's Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC)

EEG virtually attended the 19th meeting of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) on 30<sup>th</sup> November in which EEG is an official member. The meeting was held and organised by One Planet network Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme which is a global multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at accelerating the shift towards more sustainable food systems that promote a food systems approach to more holistic and inclusive policy-making. It is based on the mandate of the 10-Year Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) that was adopted by Heads of States at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and that was recognised as an implementation mechanism for SDG 12. The meeting started with an overview about today's agenda, as well as all the outcomes of MAC 18th meeting that took place this year in June 2021.

The meeting was divided into two segments; the first segment was addressed to issues related to governance through which they talked about the Sustainable Food Systems programmes' main stream work and about the process for the development of the post-2022 new global strategy on SCP. The second segment covered issues related to programme management. In this segment they addressed the outcomes of the UN food System Summit and SFS programme priorities for the 2022-2023 MAC terms.





**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**November**

## ***Bahrain Women Association for Human Development***

EEG Chairperson, on the invitation from Bahrain Women Association for Human Development attended on **2<sup>nd</sup> November** a ceremony which honored the association's partners for the past twenty years under the title of "Institutional leadership and quality partnerships". EEG Chairperson has been an active contributor in strengthening women's leadership capacities within a value-centered ethical leadership framework. The ceremony was done virtually live on their YouTube channel held under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Abdul Hussain Bin Ali Mirza, President of the Sustainable Energy Authority in Bahrain. Bahrain Women Association- for Human Development is a Bahraini organisation established on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2001, and the 1<sup>st</sup> NGO to be granted consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with a pioneering march, encouraging the birth of a global human society, where values reign and individuals enjoy justice and human dignity and a mission to inspire abilities, extending hope and working to establish a new reality. A platform, where noble endeavors integrate and where individuals possess a cosmic consciousness and sublime knowledge and dedicate their abilities to achieve sustainable human development.

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

## ***Can Collection Day***

EEG managed to successfully complete the 25<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Can Collection Drive on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021. EEG team was placed at 4 sites in UAE (3 in Dubai & 1 in RAK). They smoothly set a benchmark by collecting **5,708 kg** of Aluminium Cans effectively for recycling, saving **138 m<sup>3</sup>** of landfill space, mitigating **85.6 MTCO<sub>2</sub>** emissions and energy saving of **1,299 million BTU**. "I am always overjoyed to see the people in UAE coming together to contribute to the grass root movements of environmental sustainability."



When we started the campaign twenty-five years ago, not many people in the country were aware of terms such as recycling or sustainability. Less than 100 individuals participated in the campaign in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle, but now quarter of a century later, the Can Collection Campaign witnessed participation of more than 200 Companies, over 50 Schools and more than 100 families. To cultivate this moral habit of recycling amongst the masses in the country, with action-oriented programmes is in itself a great privilege", said Mrs. Al Mar'ashi. EEG is thankful to Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) for once again coming on board as Co-Sponsors for the year 2021. EEG is also grateful to Lucky Recycling for coming on board as the official Recycling Partner and to Al Murad Group and Gulf News who played vital roles as media support partners. The execution of such a programme at this scale wouldn't have been possible without the logistical support from several of our committed corporate members - Abela & Co, BIC Contracting, McDonald's UAE and Tristar.

**14<sup>th</sup>**  
**November**

## ***Lacnor and Oasis announced the Grand Winners of their "Small Voice, Big Difference"***

Lacnor and Oasis, on a mission to inspire the next generation to create a sustainable and healthier tomorrow, invited kids to share their ideas for a better future with the community initiative 'Small Voice, Big Difference'. The initiative aimed to help kids ideate, formulate and bring to life their best ideas to give everyone a brighter, healthier and happier tomorrow. 'Sustainability & Health' workshops took place in 45 schools in the UAE, with more than 30,000 kids participating and over 3.4 million people reached out to through social media in the UAE. In-store and online activities ran throughout the campaign to create a fun, learning environment for all kids to participate. The successful campaign "Small Voice, Big Difference" was celebrated by Lacnor and Oasis, the leading brands of National Food Products Company (NFPC), hosting their nature inspired, Awarding Ceremony, at The Farm, Al Barari which EEG attended on **14<sup>th</sup> November**. Kids with the winning ideas for the future were awarded and announced as members of the first 2 kids' councils: Lacnor Kids Council for Health and Oasis Kids Council for the Environment, were officiated.

Over 5,000 kids participated in the campaign and submitted their wonderful ideas, judged by a professional jury consisting of; Dubai Municipality Food Safety Department, Dubai Municipality Environment Department, Emirates Environmental Group, Sharjah Education Council and Bee'ah, together with Lacnor and Oasis. The jury had a difficult task to select a total of 8 winners and members of Lacnor Kids Council for Health and a further 8 winners and members of Oasis Kids Council for the Environment, as every child had a unique and truly inspiring idea on how to make our tomorrow better. Four Grand Winners won fully covered 1 year School tuition fees, sponsored by Lacnor and Oasis, as a special recognition of their incredible ideas for a better future and the importance of supporting them in their education in years to come. These Grand Winners will also become the Heads of their respective councils, and will continue working on their ideas along with Lacnor, Oasis, Government agencies and organisations. The remaining 14 runners-up won a full year of educational and recreational activities, including music lessons, sports, science and art, as a way of supporting and nurturing their talents.

**16<sup>th</sup>**  
**November**

## ***Save the Seas***

EEG joined this very important conversation about the oceans, the planet and the future of mankind on the **16<sup>th</sup> of November** via a virtual platform organised by the Tällberg Foundation. Two world-class oceanographers were present to discuss their thoughts on this topic with the session being moderated by the Chairman of the Tällberg Foundation. They have extensive research backgrounds and have passionately advocated a change in how we think about oceans so that we can truly consider ways to mitigate the degradation of the oceans that threatens life on earth.

During the session, several important points were raised on the issue of the health of our oceans and the lives within it. In effect, temperatures are rising in a rate never documented before which is forcing marine animals to adapt to new environments. Moreover, industrial fishing is particularly harmful as it can leave behind free flowing nets that cause other animals in the water to get entrapped. The session was filled with wise messages by the panelists that advocated for better treatment of our oceans and sea creatures alike with a passion as ultimately, the quality of human life is intertwined with the health of our oceans. Moreover, we should all be ready to step up as local heroes for our coastlines as this is the only way that we have a shot at saving our seas.



## 19<sup>th</sup> November *The OECD & Environmental Policy - How Can Civil Society Engage?*

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Their goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all. They draw on 60 years of experience and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, OECD works on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges. To learn more about environmental policymaking at the OECD and the engagement mechanisms for different stakeholders including environmental NGOs, EEG attended a capacity building session on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

OECD representatives and European Environmental Bureau (EEB) staff shared how the OECD works to learn about the opportunities to engage in and shape better environmental policies. The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) coordinates the voice of environmental organisations within the OECD Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) to broaden their engagement with the support of other environmental civil society organisations. CSOs are playing a major role in the framework of sustainable development, namely for improving economic, social and political conditions in developing countries. An activity is characterised as aid to CSOs when the core contributions and pooled programmes and funds are programmed by the CSOs and include contributions to finance the CSOs projects.

## 21<sup>st</sup> November *RIT Advisory Board Meeting*

EEG Chairperson, in her capacity as Rochester Institute of Technology - Dubai (RIT Dubai) Advisory Board Member, attended a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November which hosted advisory board members from the Mechanical, Electrical, Business, Career and Graduate Studies departments. RIT Chair, Graduate Programmes and Research Department shared detailed updates and recent developments in the department. They discussed about the three (3) graduate programmes that are currently running under the department: 1) Data Analytics - the largest enrollment among the 3 programmes; 2) Smart Cities (previously called City Science) and 3) Future Foresight and Planning. The resources of the department, the programme structures and the assessments of the department for continuous improvements were also discussed during the meeting. The Team commended the institute for these innovative graduate programmes that the need of the hour for these type of qualifications amongst the youth.

## 25<sup>th</sup> November *EEG and Zurich: Towards Sustainability*

EEG Chairperson attended on 25<sup>th</sup> November the Zurich Middle East Sustainability Town hall, wherein all Zurich UAE staff across business units were present at the event "Create a brighter future together", with Bahrain and Qatar staff watching the Live stream from their offices. The event was to encourage Zurich's people towards sustainability activism, creating a sustainability mindset. All teams and business functions were merged to form teams and were challenged to present what a sustainable Zurich looks like in 2030. There were three main strategic priorities covered for the contest: 'Climate change', 'Work sustainability' and 'Trust in a digitalised world'. The 9 teams presented their futuristic green office vision in a fun and interesting way with skits, musicals and videos. The 3 winners were selected by audience e-vote.

EEG Chairperson was the guest of honour, who spoke about how people can embrace sustainability in their daily lives by reducing waste, recycling and buying local seasonal produce, creating a green and sustainable society by everyday actions at home. Zurich Middle East CEO, Ms. Reena Vivek presented Mrs. Habiba the Zurich 'Sustainability Heroes' award for Excellence in Sustainability leadership and Environment protection.

With EEG and Zurich's partnership prospering, EEG Chairperson and Zurich Middle East CEO had a live interview with Helen Farmer at her radio channel "Helen Farmer Show" on 29<sup>th</sup> November. The discussion revolved on how personal finance and sustainability efforts go hand in hand, companies' efforts and accountabilities toward the 17 UN SDGs and how can the community get involved, and etc.

## 28<sup>th</sup> November *Scottish Business Delegation*

EEG Chairperson had a fruitful discussion with the Scottish Chambers of Commerce Chief Executive, Ms. Liz Cameron and the CEO of Chamber of Commerce in Dundee, Mrs. Alison Henderson wherein she shared the meaningful and constructive work that EEG does on the ground for the grass-root level as well as highlight EEG's regional and global reach. The discussion also revolved on 2022 programme of the Scottish trade mission and EEG's involvement in these programmes. The visits are themed to tie to the Expo "Climate Change and Energy Transition and to "Women Leaders" - both of which are closely aligned with the work of the EEG and the Chairperson. EEG Chairperson attended in the evening of the same day a special delegation event hosted by the Scottish Chambers of Commerce and the Al Maktoum College. The event was a welcome Reception & Dinner for a Scottish business delegation at the Dubai Residence of HE Mr. Mirza Al-Sayegh, Chairman of the College and friend of the Chamber network.

## 30<sup>th</sup> November *Energy Efficiency Drives for a More Sustainable MENA Region*

The Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) and the Air-conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) jointly hosted a webinar on "Energy Efficiency Drives for a More Sustainable MENA Region" to launch their recent partnership on the 30<sup>th</sup> November wherein EEG Chairperson was invited to join as a panelist. Despite the introduction of regulations, energy performance standards, and building codes in the MENA region to improve energy efficiency and conserve energy use, administrators are still cognizant of the following challenges: a) Verifying that performance of equipment is actually in compliance with Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS); b) Testing protocol; c) Market surveillance; and d) Testing laboratories. As such, there is a pressing need for improving compliance mechanisms to ensure the ambitious green targets being set are achieved and ensure that policies are implemented properly.

EEG Chairperson presented under the panel discussion titled "Guidance to Increasing Compliance Levels Across the Varying Regulations Affecting HVACR Systems in the MENA Region". Her presentation focused on "how companies can benefit from the ever-changing HVAC legislation?" She shared in her concluding remarks that: "These legislations that are being applied are not to be seen as a burden on sellers and manufacturers, but as an opportunity to innovate and get forward in terms of market share. Legislators aren't here to stomp on the growth of companies and businesses; they are here to make sure you keep moving in a positive direction, while keeping the environment healthy."



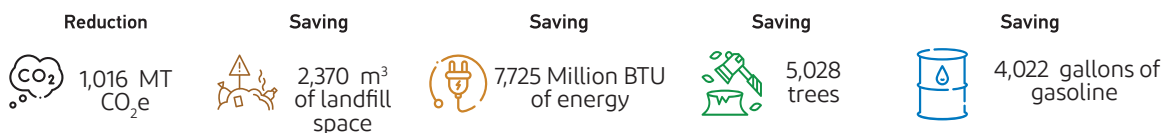
## One Root, One Communi-tree Phase 2

One Root One Communi-Tree is a powerful waste management programme that is open to all sectors of the society. We concluded the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of OROC on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The recyclable materials that were collected included paper, plastic, E-waste, aluminium cans, toners, glass and mobile phones. More than **340 entities** participated in OROC from different sectors representing Government bodies, Cooperates, Academic institutes, individuals and families.

The phase 2 successfully collected



The contribution transpired and resulted in



We have worked together to divert waste from landfills which enabled us to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and protect our precious earth for a better living environment. Participants who achieved the target have received an invitation to plant an indigenous tree under their names on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Phase 2 of OROC is contributing to plant **614 trees** and sign off the year by giving back to nature and creating Carbon sinks in the UAE.

## Educational News

### 21<sup>st</sup> Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition

The 21<sup>st</sup> cycle of the EEG Inter College Environmental Speech Competition took place in Dubai on **23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November** at the Knowledge Park in Dubai under the patronage of Ministry of Education of the UAE. Mrs. Al Mar'ashi expressed satisfaction in her opening address, saying "It is always a privilege to work in partnerships with various entities to bring about successful sustainability programmes. It is only through collaborations and cooperation that progress can be made towards achieving environmental sustainability goals. We are very glad to receive the support from DP World, who came on board as the main sponsor for this unique environmental educational programme.

This year, 73 participating teams competed for the coveted rolling trophy under the following topics:

- Sustainable Living: A Path for a Greener Future?
- Environment and Education: Need for Change.
- Balancing the Three Pillars of Sustainability in a Post Pandemic World.
- Integrating Environment & Technology: A Solution to Sustainability?

A panel of four well respected bilingual judges was tasked with allocating scores to each team based on their presentation skills, the understanding of the topic they chose and the information presented. Coinciding with Expo 2020, EEG held a special edition whereby it opened the platform for colleges/universities outside the Arab Region. Thereby, witnessing an increase in participation, with university students coming from Europe and Central Asia as well. In total, more than 400 students and faculty members participated in this year's competition which was a really wonderful group after the somewhat small version last year due to the effect of COVID-19 and the travel restrictions. This year's competition again highlighted the fact that there is a global search for answers regarding the future and that we are all looking to the youth for their creativity and commitment to our environment. Students covered the four pre-determined topics in very creative ways and showcased their own styles and backgrounds that kept fellow students amused, interested and totally focused for the full two days. The winners of this year's Inter College Environmental Public Speaking competition are:

Topic
Topic 1: Sustainable Living: A Path for a Green Future?
Topic 2: Environment and Education: Need for Change
Topic 3: Balancing the Three Pillars of Sustainability in a Post Pandemic World
Topic 4: Integrating Environment & Technology: A Solution to Sustainability?

Winners
Manipal Academy of Higher Education - Dubai
New York University - Abu Dhabi
University Of Sharjah - Sharjah
Princess Nora Bint Abdulrahman University, Riyadh, KSA

The University of Sharjah scored the highest number of points during the competition and was awarded the coveted rolling trophy for the 21<sup>st</sup> cycle of the Inter College Environmental Public Speaking competition. EEG expresses its appreciation to Dubai International Academic City that has again graciously provided the venue to conduct this competition and to EEG's Corporate Member, Abela & Co for providing the catering for the event. EEG is very proud of the opportunities it provides for students to network and explore environmental and other sustainability issues in a professional and creative manner. The annual Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition is one such platform and has proven to be one where students thrive and gain tremendous knowledge and confidence.



## Arcadia School Open Day Event

Emirates Environmental Group participated in Arcadia School's "Our Planet, Our Future" open day on 20<sup>th</sup> November. The open day allowed EEG to showcase the work that it does and to raise awareness of how schools, corporates and individuals may become involved in and support EEG. Raising awareness and expanding EEG's membership base are key to ensuring that the work that EEG does is continued and expanded to allow the implementation of more meaningful projects.

In addition to enhancing the recycling efforts of the UAE, which is central to the work of EEG. Events such as the Arcadia School's open day are vital to connect with and engage the community in general and particularly the youth. For EEG it is really important to participate at these events, so that members of the public who are interested in making a difference may join hands and work with EEG to achieve those goals. The team spent the morning meeting with members of the Arcadia school community; it was clear that there is a real desire to become involved and to work towards a better and more sustainable future.



## Upcoming News

### Green December

Designed exclusively for EEG's student members; Green December is a waste management project that takes place in the last month of every year. Scheduled from 1st December until the 21st December 2021, this project is popularly known as 'The Winter Recycling Project'. The target set for collection of recyclables this year is **500 kg paper, 35kg plastic, 20kg aluminum cans, 50kg Glass, 50 pieces of each mobile phones and toner cartridges**. The highest collector under each category will be given a 'complimentary' student membership for 2022 and a Certificate of Appreciation.

We urge all student members to register here [CLICK HERE](#) and actively participate to a Sustainable Tomorrow!



### Clean Up UAE

Celebrating the 'YEAR OF THE FIFTIETH' with a National Clean Up UAE.

Clean Up UAE 2021 is held under the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and is scheduled to take place from 6th of December until the 16th December. It is the perfect campaign that helps improve the environment, protect habitats for native wildlife and prevents further pollution through degradation. Participating in this campaign is an impeccable way to show our patriotism and loyalty towards the UAE. Influencing the society about the importance of having a clean earth that is free from trash is a pre-requisite and avoiding wastage is the easiest way to do it! By participating in clean-ups, citizens can create immediate results and permanent changes in their local areas. Clean-ups should serve as catalysts for permanent changes in attitudes and behavior and encourage adoption of sustainable practices (i.e. recycling and resource conservation) that can have a profound effect on waste management in the community.

Register at [REGISTER NOW](#) and lead the change!



### For Our Emirates We Plant

Concluding 2021 with SUSTAINABLE GREEN SPACES.

The world produces 51 billion tons of greenhouse gases every year. Decarbonisation is now the biggest challenge facing humanity. To reach zero, we need innovation, collaboration and action. Contribute now to participate in planting trees and do your part. EEG is conducting the last campaign of the year on 21.12.21 with the theme "For Our Emirates We Plant" held under the Patronage of H.E. Engr. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman, Department of Civil Aviation - Ras Al Khaimah and member of the Executive Council of Ras Al Khaimah. Write to us on [eeeg@emirates.net.ae](mailto:eeeg@emirates.net.ae) and know how you can contribute towards more Green Spaces in the UAE.





## UAE at COP26 and to Host COP28 Climate Conference in 2023

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has officially announced that the UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in 2023. Turning challenges into opportunities H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Almhairi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said: "At a time of rapidly rising climate risks that threaten all countries, we welcome the responsibility of hosting COP28 and are determined to support the international community in pursuing a practical agenda that focuses on implementation, ambition, opportunities and transformation." "At COP28, we will address the planetary and economic aftermath of climate change as two sides of the same coin, exploring solutions that put us on a path towards limiting global warming to 1.5 C and are economically viable at the same time. We are keen to share our successful approach of turning challenges into opportunities to leave a healthier planet to our children." Further, IRENA and the UAE announced the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform, a new global climate finance facility to accelerate the transition to renewable energy in developing countries. The UAE committed US\$400 million in funding provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) toward the platform's goal of securing a minimum of US\$1 billion in total funding.

[READ MORE](#)


UNCCD  
NEWS

### The race to restore 100 million hectares of Africa's Great Green Wall begins

Ministers of Environment, Finance and Planning from Africa's Great Green Wall countries and the partners, which UNCCD is part of, met to discuss new arrangements to help countries in the Sahel Region to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. Meeting for the first time since the Great Green Wall Accelerator was announced in January, the partners reviewed proposals to overcome bottlenecks. There was real enthusiasm to fast-track efforts to ensure that pledges, that have now reached US\$19 billion, are turned into action and action at local level. The partners' remarks focused on building a common understanding around key issues. First a harmonised results framework with five pillars is a critical tool to make it easier to access the pledged funds and to monitor the results on the ground in the 11 countries of the Great Green Wall. Second, each country has its own partners and can develop their own programmes based on their needs. A national level multi-stakeholder forum to exchange information and integrate the Great Green Wall into national development programs is essential. Third, a harmonised two-tier framework and approach could strengthen coordination at the national and at the regional levels. Lastly, building capacities at the national and local levels would help to overcome operational challenges, inspire the development of bankable projects and unlock action on the ground.

[Click for more](#)


UNEP  
NEWS

### Spotlight on climate action

The climate emergency is a direct consequence of carbon-heavy land-use and agriculture, transport, buildings and industrial processes and polluting energy sources. Without profound changes to these sectors and a drastic cut to carbon footprints, there is little hope to protect the planet from the worst effects of a warmer world. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) stands at the core of the action in the fight against climate change where they call for greater ambition from countries and recognition of the benefits of integrating natural systems into concrete climate action. Know more about the highlights from the United Nations System, from partners and from others helping to call attention to the fact that the future of humanity depends on action now.

[Click for more](#)


IUCN  
NEWS

### Nature-based solutions for climate resilience receive €10 million boost

At the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), the Federal Environment Ministry of Germany (BMU) announced that it will provide an additional €10M to the Global Eco-system based Adaptation (EbA) Fund, a pioneering funding mechanism implemented by IUCN and UNEP and designed to support nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation. This takes the Ministry's total commitment to the fund up to €30 million. At the same time, the Global EbA Fund has approved its first seven grants, ranging from coral reef protection in the Philippines to restoring riverbank ecosystems for erosion control in Fiji. The Global EbA Fund was launched in March 2021 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Environment Ministry of Germany. The Fund aims to accelerate the uptake and financing of EbA by providing seed capital to catalytic and innovative ecosystem-based adaptation initiatives. Ecosystem-based adaptation is a strategy that harnesses biodiversity and ecosystem services to build the resilience of human communities to the impacts of climate change. It includes the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems - such as forests, grasslands, or wetlands - to reduce the harmful impacts of climate hazards, whether it's shifting rainfall patterns, temperature changes, or intense storms. Despite the cost-effectiveness of ecosystem-based adaptation as a strategy to tackle climate change, so far only 5% of global climate finance flows are spent on adaptation, and only 1.4% of this on nature-based solutions for adaptation. This, despite UN Secretary-General António Guterres' appeal that 50% of total climate finance should be committed to adaptation.

[Click for more](#)

## EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 11 new student members, 10 renewed student members in the month of November 2021

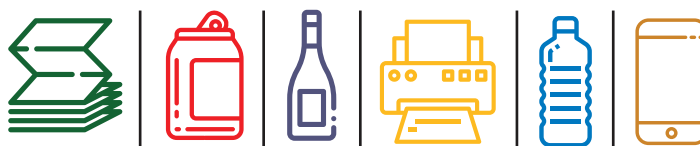
### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Timidu Weerawar Dhana	New	Vidhya Ganesan	Renewal
Sai Shrishti Sivakumar	New	Priyasha Sharma	Renewal
Vishwa Sai Sivakumar	New	Parth Sarathy Shekher	Renewal
Venkata Sai Vijaya Sujeel Parupudi	New	Saanvi Kiran Rai	Renewal
Mark Montiero	New	Mohamed Zishan Riyad	Renewal
Parth Sarathy	New	Prerana Ramkumar	Renewal
Jagadip Sai Seetharaman	New	Sanat Malhotra	Renewal
Ammar Al-Fulahy	New	Sibani Malhotra	Renewal
Ranveer Anand	New	Vandana Subramanian	Renewal
Balaji Parthasarathy	New	Varun Pabreja	Renewal
Saanvi Hemachanda Rao	New		



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

- » GHG Reductions 488 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>)
- » Saving of 4,286 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 966m<sup>3</sup> of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 1,948 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 1,326 Gallons of Gasoline



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>96,498</b> kg of Paper from <b>207</b> participants during the month of November 2021, an increase of <b>48%</b> compared to October 2021. We urge our participants to be actively involved in our recycling campaigns in December to enable us to achieve our target for 2021. The Top Collectors were:	Gems Wellington Academy	4,380	Mohamed Zishan Riyad	1,880
	Our Own High School - Al Warqaa	2,355	Ananya Dangra	990
	Private International English School	2,170	Lacksana Karthikeyan	890
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected <b>6,269</b> kg of Aluminum Cans from <b>143</b> participants during the month of November 2021, an increase of <b>4443%</b> compared to October 2021. We urge our participants to put more efforts to help us achieve the set target for the year 2021. The top collectors for the month were:	Our Own High School Al Warqa'a Boys	84	Hamzah Pasha	36
	The Millennium School	20	Mark Monteiro & Toshith Bhaumik (Tie)	20
	Dubai International Academy, Emirates Hills Dubai	18	Madiha Javed	18
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected <b>11,732</b> kg of Plastic from <b>141</b> participants during the month of November 2021, an increase of <b>6%</b> compared to October 2021. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections. The top collectors for the month were:	Oasis International School	590	Nia Tony	544
	Our Own High School, Al Warqa'a	333	Hassan Abdullah Hassan	110
	American School of Dubai, Al Barsha	200	Dave Clausen Pais	109
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected <b>53</b> pieces of Toners from <b>5</b> participants during the month of November 2021, a decrease of <b>64%</b> compared to October 2021. We encourage our participants to be more active before the close of the year. The Top collectors were:	-	-	Benjamin Jobilal	22
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected <b>375</b> pieces of Mobile Phones from <b>9</b> participants during the month of November 2021, an increase of <b>172%</b> compared to October 2021. We urge participants to support us and we encourage them to be active in the collection of this valuable material. The Top collectors were:	Our Own High School - Al Warqa'a	17	Shivani Adduri	187
	Delhi Private School Sharjah	10	Veda Dinesh	32
			Vidhya Ganesan	30
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>4,425</b> kg of Glass Bottles from <b>42</b> participants during the month of November 2021, a decrease of <b>39%</b> compared to October 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	10	Kashvi Verma	242
			Sonai Gandhi	110
			Dave Clausen Pais & Hassan Abdullah Hassan (Tie)	40
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>2,118</b> kg of E-waste from <b>12</b> participants during the month of November 2021, an increase of <b>548%</b> compared to October 2021. We encourage our participants to continue collecting and prevent these materials from ending in landfills. The Top collectors were:	-	-	Eshaal Fazal	25
			Varun Vishnuprasad	21
			Shafeeka Jamal	16
SCRAP COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected <b>98</b> kg of Scrap metal from <b>7</b> participants during the month of November 2021, an increase of <b>180%</b> compared to October 2021. We invite and encourage our participants to put more effort and to join this new programme. The Top collector was:	-	-	Shafeeka Jamal	57
			Buthaina	10

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.

