

EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUP



April 2022
Issue 4



Upcoming Events

22nd Annual Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition
18th - 21st April 2022

TOPICS

SUB - Speech

1. Water Security & Food Security - Correlated?
2. Conserving the True Lungs of the Planet - Key to Preventing Climate Change

SENOR

1. Industrial Animal Agriculture - A Compelling Contributor to Climate Change?
2. Growing Cities - Redesigning Infrastructure Towards Net Zero

Co-sponsor
OUNASS

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OROC
ONE ROOT, ONE COMMUNI-TREE
PHASE 1
22nd Jan - 22nd May 2022

Linking the Recycling Programme with, "For Our Emirates We Plant"

Recyclables	Families (Average)	Recyclables	Educational & Corporate (Average)
Paper	500 kg	Paper	2,000 kg
E-waste	250 kg	E-waste	1000 kg
Glass	100 kg	Glass	250 kg
Plastic	50 kg	Plastic	100 kg
Aluminium Cans	25 kg	Aluminium Cans	75 kg
Toner Cartridges	75 pcs	Toner Cartridges	75 pcs
Mobile Phones	30 pcs	Mobile Phones	75 pcs

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BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES:

Every SUNDAY, 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Villa No. 117a - JMR. 68, Jumeirah 1, Between old Dubai Zoo & Beach Centre.

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



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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear Readers,

It's the holy month of the Islamic calendar that prepares us to focus attention towards equality, social order, compassion, kindness, humility and sharing. In the month of Ramadan, we learn righteousness, benevolence, tolerance and environmental preservation. The month of spirituality has come, wishing you a blessed Ramadan filled with the right deeds and actions. As the world continues to think about the future course of actions needed to recover from Post COVID Pandemic, the first quarter of 2022 has already concluded. While the whole team at EEG was on its toes throughout the month of March with organising and attending a myriad of environmental events and conferences - locally and globally both physically and virtually.

We began the month with conducting our major corporate event, the **25th Annual Corporate Gala Dinner** which was held on **2nd March** under the kind Patronage and presence of H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Civil Aviation RAK and Member of the Government of Ras Al Khaimah Executive Council. This annual event was conducted this year under the theme "**Unified Humanity - Sustainable Planet**". Read More on page 3. On **3rd March - International Women's Day**, I participated virtually as a speaker in a Round Table discussion organised by Zurich's Women's Innovation Network (WIN) under the theme "**Break the Bias**". We discussed the challenges women face, gender stereotyping, how to deal with such biases and why we need more women in leadership roles amongst other issues related to diversity and inclusion.

On **16th March**, EEG conducted its first mega-international conference under the title -Sustainable Urban Development under the prestigious patronage of EXPO 2020 Dubai. The conference was one-of-kind that brought together leaders and change makers to critically evaluate "The Future of Housing Innovations for Developing Affordable and Sustainable Communities". On **17th March** I virtually presented at the **7th edition of the Knowledge Summit** organised by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The summit was under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. EEG was also the official "Supporting Organisation" for the **Retrofit Tech MENA Summit** that took place on the **23rd**. I attended the event physically and spoke under the topic "Importance of Retrofitting & Energy Efficiency towards Regional Environmental Goals." Read More on page 5.

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, **Global Business Forum LATAM 2022** was organised in partnership with Expo 2020 Dubai and was hosted at the Expo Dubai Exhibition Centre. I was delighted to attend the 4th edition of the GBF Latin America on

24th March, where I spoke under the session "**GROW - Boosting Growth by Combating Climate Change**". The **6th International Conference on Applied Science Energy and Environment** was conducted on **26th March** at the Tishk International University in Erbil-Iraq. I was delighted to join them virtually and speak under the title "**The Environmental Practices in UAE and Path to Sustainable Use of Energy**." Read More on page 5.

Another flagship recycling activity of the month was the **Paper Walk**, which we organise annually on the sidelines of Earth Hour. As many as **63** participating entities and individuals visited EEG office over the course of the weekend the **26th & 27th** and contributed **18,623 kg** of paper, which included newspapers, cardboards, books etc. Read More on page 7.

With regards to our educational programmes, the Environmental Drawing Competition concluded on **31st March**. It received marvelous and amazing artworks from students across all 7 Emirates. The Awarding Ceremony is scheduled on **12th May 2022**. Read More on page 6.

The **22nd cycle** of the **Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition** is gaining momentum. The competition is set to take place on **18th April** to **21st April** and I'm excited to hear the critical thoughts of our future environmental stewards. Read More on page 8.

On the recycling front, we launched our annual month-long **Green Call Project - On 22nd March**. It is a unique recycling project involving all sectors of society to recycle old Mobile Phones in exchange for an opportunity to plant sapling of indigenous trees on **22.12.22**. Let me take this opportunity to invite all of you, especially the gadget-loving people, to join the **7th cycle** of the Green Call Project which will conclude on **22nd April**.

We continued our high-spirited journey to increase the Sustainable Green Spaces within the UAE, and planted saplings of **1,984** indigenous trees in March 2022. Read more on page 6. Our Community Programme "**One Root, One Communi-tree**" (OROC) project which we rolled out on **22nd Jan** and will conclude on **22nd May** is also progressing magnificently with many participants already achieving their targets and are eligible to plant trees under their names! Read More on page 6.

The **2nd panel discussion** is planned for **26.4.22** under the title "**The Green Grid Initiative: Commencement of the Renewable Energy Generation?**". This panel will focus on the challenges of switching to smart green grids, the efficiency of existing grids in the Arab region and internationally. Read More on page 8. Enthusiasm is soaring high at the office of EEG, and we aim to keep the momentum going. I hope you will all enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter, as we bring to you the latest updates of EEG's activities and engagements, along with interesting news from across the world. Let us all work together for a better Environment!



"United Humanity, Sustainable Planet"

Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) hosted its 25th Annual Corporate Gala Dinner under the patronage of HE Eng. Sheikh Salem bin Sultan bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Civil Aviation Department, Member of the Executive Council of Ras Al Khaimah Government and Honorary Member of EEG at Sheraton Jumeirah Beach Resort on 2nd March.

The 25th annual event was held under the theme of 'United Humanity, Sustainable Planet' to further illustrate the importance of partnerships. The Co-Founder & Chairperson of EEG, welcomed the guests of the evening and said, "As the first Non-Government organisation dedicated to protecting the environment in the UAE, we have pioneered in promoting sustainable practices, whether it is in encouraging families through diverse collection drives or with our corporate members in improving their waste management systems and providing them various opportunities to give back to the society. Our efforts remained focused and strong even during the past two years of the pandemic."

The Patron of the Annual Corporate Gala Dinner - H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi said: "As the nation and the world shifts its focus towards creating an economy that has enhanced innovations, it is vital that we as leaders focus on the responsibilities that support and underpin platforms that impart great value in spreading the message of sustainability to all. It gives me great pride and joy in seeing that EEG has brought together the Government, the Private Sector and the Academia to help them achieve their strong community based initiatives and programmes that have been designed with the aim of achieving sustainable development of our Country and beyond in mind."

The Co-Founder & Chairperson also shared impressive numbers and data that EEG has achieved till date. The Gala Dinner was sponsored and supported by McDonald's UAE - Platinum Sponsor, Wasl Properties - Special Sponsor, Chalhoub Group and Adeeb Group - Silver Sponsors, Farnek - Carbon Neutral Partner, and Arabia CSR Network - Sustainability Partner.

A Snapshot of 25th Annual Corporate Gala Dinner held on 2nd March



Special Sponsor



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UNEP Engagements

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

1) UNEA 5.2

EEG virtually attended the United Nations Environment Assembly 5.2 held from **28th February to 2nd March 2022** in a hybrid format. UNEA 5.2 is aimed at creating global momentum towards reducing plastic pollution and also improving the Global Environmental Governance with UNEP. The sessions also discussed the 16 Draft Resolutions proposed by delegates in the 5 Resolution clusters which are **Marine and Plastic Pollution, Nature based solutions, Green Recovery, Global Environmental Governance and Chemicals**.

The assembly included various leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues on SDG, UNEP Governance and also related to multilateralism. The main session was the committee of the whole which was tasked with discussing and negotiating different draft Resolutions sent for consideration by the Open-Ended Working Group on Committee of Permanent Representatives. The work of the Committee of the Whole was difficult but was completed on time with the cooperation of delegates and also the other stakeholders such as civil society and other groups who gave inputs to the member states. The main highlight of the assembly was the passing of the Resolution for the creation of Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee for addressing Plastic pollution which even the UN Secretary General called as a landmark moment. The Assembly in short showed the success of the coordinated actions in addressing global challenges and also the role of civil society in pressuring member states to take more action for consensus on environmental issues.

2) The Role of Sustainable Food Consumption and Production

There are about 500 million smallholder farms in the world that depend directly on food systems for their livelihoods, as do all of humans in terms of health and well-being. However, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are a major driver of environmental deterioration, with food as a key component at the intersection of biodiversity, climate change, human health and livelihoods. At the global level, food systems, along the entire value chain from production to consumption, are responsible for around 30% of greenhouse gas emissions and 80% of natural habitat conversion rendering it the main driver of biodiversity loss, (UNEP, 2021).

In light of the upcoming preparatory meeting for Stockholm+50 that took place on 28th March in New York, EEG attended a virtual event on **21st March** co-hosted by Costa Rica, Switzerland, Vietnam and WWF in the frame of the UN One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme. The event discussed the connections between sustainable food systems and sustainable consumption and production, and shed light on the synergies between the follow-up processes of the UN Food Systems Summit and Stockholm+50. Concrete examples drawing from National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation was presented during the session, followed by an interactive discussion with member states on a set of take-away messages. The event also discussed the key outcomes of the UN Secretary General's Food Systems Summit and its relation to the promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns (SDG12 and related goals). It explored how to mainstream food systems into the Stockholm+50 conference, as well as the three Rio Conventions.

**3rd
March**

Zurich Women's Innovation Network (WIN)

The insurance industry is always looking for innovative ways to attract, retain, and support female employees in their career development. Every company has a different strategy, but Zurich is making waves in the insurance arena through the Zurich Women's Innovation Network (WIN). WIN was founded in 2012 by Zurich employees. Its core strategy is aligned with Zurich's workforce sustainability commitments, with specific focus of building meaningful connections, developing leadership skills and inspiring confidence. Innovation lies, quite literally, at the core of WIN.

In celebration of the International Women's Day under the theme "Break the Bias", EEG Chairperson was invited by the Chair of Women's Innovation Network (WIN) - Middle East to join a virtual Round Table event on **3rd March**. The session shared thoughts on how to enable women on their path to independence aiming at forging a diverse and inclusive future. The discussion also revolves on the hurdles which women they face in the industry, how to address gender stereotypes, the progress on gender equality in life and work, the need of more women in leadership, and etc. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias.



**14th-16th
March**

7th International Date Palm Conference

The 7th International Date Palm Conference was held at Emirates Palace Hotel, in Abu Dhabi, from **14th to 16th March, 2022**, which was attended by 475 international researchers, and experts, from 42 countries. The Conference was under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. The 7th International

Date Palm Conference truly reflects the great interest of His Highness to support the field of science and scientists, and appreciation to the role of scientific research in the field of sustainable development in the UAE, as well as His Highness' interest in date palm and agricultural innovation fields, which represent an important economic, social and cultural value that has its unique position in the UAE's development journey.

EEG was proud to be on board as a Conference supporter. The 7th International Date Palm Conference, aims to provide an opportunity to update the scientific knowledge on various aspects of the date palm production, protection and marketing. The conference also aimed to present and compare the UAE's modern experiences with those with similar experiences in date producing and manufacturing countries. The 7th International Date Palm Conference, is a great example of an international conference, as it presents valuable researches and studies in various aspects of date palm cultivation, industry and trade, therefore, it could be characterised by comprehensiveness, where its vision involves introducing new and advanced experiences and expertise from around the world.



17th MBRF's 7th Knowledge Summit

March

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; the 7th edition of the Knowledge Summit organised by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was opened on 5th March, followed by virtual conferences on 16th, 17th and 18th March under the theme (Knowledge: Protecting People and the Planet through Pandemics).

On 17th March, EEG Co-Founder & Chairperson was invited for a virtual Talk Show under the session "Coexistence and synergies in the marine space" which included topics such as promoting ocean literacy and ocean citizenship, uncovering the opportunities of the blue economy for Small Island Developing States, and restoring ocean health and productivity. The EEG Co-Founder & Chairperson shared deep insights and facts about the topic which was highly appreciated by the audience. In its 7th edition, the Knowledge Summit 2022 focuses on the role of knowledge in achieving Sustainable Development and facing global challenges such as pandemics, poverty, hunger and climate change, by devising the right solutions to protect the planet and ensure that all people live in prosperity, peace and justice. The launch of the Knowledge Summit is part of UAE's objectives to promote the transfer and dissemination of knowledge and highlight the opportunities and challenges of building knowledge societies, considering the unprecedented changes that have taken place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

22nd Workshop on World Water Day

March

The World Water Day is observed on March 22nd every year to raise awareness on the issues of water conservation and access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. To mark this important day Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) in association with Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) organised an online workshop titled "Protecting Ground Water". EEG invited its student members as well as its corporate members to participate in this workshop. The workshop was presented by the Education and Awareness department of DEWA, the session revolved around this year's topic for World Water Day, 'Groundwater- Making the Invisible, Visible'. The workshop was interactive with the participation of around 51 EEG student members and 87 entities. The session elucidated the importance of groundwater and how we can conserve water. The workshop also made the participants aware of the UAE's scarcity of groundwater and how we avail drinking water by desalination. The attendees were engaged throughout the workshop by Q & A and they expressed their views and concerns on the topic.

22nd-23rd Retrofit Tech MENA Summit

March

EEG attended the recently conducted Retrofit Tech MENA that took place from 22nd - 23rd March as one of the official "Supporting Organisation". EEG Co-Founder and Chairperson also attended the event as a keynote speaker under the topic "Importance of Retrofitting & Energy Efficiency towards Regional Environmental Goals." She shared her views on how retrofitting and making buildings and industries energy efficient is aligned with UAE's Energy Strategy 2050. She expressed her concerns over rising global temperatures and related changing climate and discussed major findings of the latest IPCC report. She shared how energy efficiency is essential to combat climate change and how it can be achieved by implementing the latest technologies in older infrastructures by retrofitting.



Mrs. Habiba's keynote speech also included Dubai's building retrofitting strategy and the major clean energy projects in Dubai and how they are crucial for a green economy, in line with UAE's target to become Net Zero by 2050. She also elucidated the technological breakthroughs in recent years and how we are experiencing the Industrial Revolution 4.0, which makes transformation of the old infrastructures inevitable. The Retrofit Tech series of events are amongst the most prominent platforms for the key players in the Energy Efficiency, Sustainability and Retrofitting sectors to meet, network and exchange ideas on how to achieve the region's ambitious sustainability goals.

26th The 6th International Conference on Applied Science Energy and Environment

March

In order to enable the knowledge and information accessible to everyone, Faculty of Education, Tishk International University held its annual International Conference on Applied Sciences, Energy and Environment in a Hybrid format on 26th March 2022. The ICASEE-2022 conference was designed to attract the research communities to promote connections between theory and practice and explore different perspectives on the application of research findings into different practices. The conference welcomed scholars coming from international and regional platforms as well as experts, engineers, lecturers and senior lecturers working in the broad areas of academic world and environmental protection. The ICASEE-2022 opened the channels, and paved roads of scientific collaboration and brought experiences together with expertise for further innovative thoughts and more creative research.

EEG Co-Founder and Chairperson joined the conference as a speaker in a session under the title "The Environmental Practices in UAE and Path to Sustainable Use of Energy." Her presentation focused on providing the students and attendees with a brief overview of the UAE history, its development; and the energy consumption patterns over the years in the country. The presentation also highlighted the existing and upcoming renewable energy projects in the country along with data about energy use, efficiency, the segregation of energy responsibilities, distribution of energy, the challenges and its applications. Her presentation touched upon the role of EEG as an NGO and its contributions towards preserving the environment through the means of education and action programmes.

The ICASEE-2022 conference, with its broad spectrum of themes and branches also covered plans for embracing sustainable environment and cleaner energy through applied science research. The event targeted present new insights to values and standards of environmental protection, future trends of progressive mechanisms of improvement while looking more closely into the current dynamics in the world between old and new trends, local and global tendencies, progressive and conservative views, stabilisation and destabilisation patterns and national and global identities.



For Our Emirates We Plant

EEG conducted two Tree Planting events in the March of March. Emirates Environmental Group continued in the month of March its mission towards increasing the sustainable green patches and contributing in the urban afforestation strategy of the UAE. It partnered with the **National Bank of Fujairah** and in collaboration with **Fujairah Environment Agency** to organise a massive activity under the “For Our Emirates We Plant” programme. This Tree Planting Activity took place at **Dibba Al Fujairah** on **Saturday 6th March**. 265 saplings of indigenous Sidr and Ghaf trees were planted at the honey protected area which upon maturity in 2 to 3 years will sequester 1.56 MTCO₂e from the atmosphere annually.

The second tree planting for the month of March and the third for the year 2022 was conducted on **19th March**, the event was held under the patronage and presence of H.E. Engr. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al-Qasimi, member of the Executive Council of the Government of Ras Al-Khaimah and Chairman of the Department of Civil Aviation in Ras Al Khaimah. This event brought together 8 organisations from various fields namely: Majid Al Futtaim, Magrudy's, Atyab Al Marshoud, Lafarge, SThree, GTI Fujairah Fzc, Association of Rotary Clubs - UAE and Gartner. In total 1,719 saplings of indigenous trees were planted that upon maturity in 2 -3 years will sequester 10.14 MTCO₂e from the atmosphere annually. The opening ceremony showcased Emirati heritage and culture as a talented local group of men performed Rizfah dance making the event vibrant and exciting for the attendees. The event concluded with a live cooking session by local Emirati Women, invited by EEG, who served local cuisine to all the participants and dignitaries present on the day. This unique attraction highlighted the Emirati culture of togetherness and hospitality. These important events resulted in direct deliverables of UN SDG Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing UN SDG Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities; Goal 12: Responsible consumption production; Goal 13: climate Action and Goal 15: Life on land and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.



One Root One Communi-Tree (OROC) Phase 1



UAE's steady economic development and the growing population is closely associated with the surging waste generation in the country. In recycling, material recovery without segregation is not possible. Hence we need to start segregating the waste at the source. EEG, through its flagship recycling programme has brought significant transformation in UAE's participation in waste segregation and recycling. The ongoing 'One Root One Communi-Tree' (OROC) Phase 1, which is running from **22nd January 2022 to 22nd May 2022**, gives UAE residents from families, academics, public and private sector, an opportunity to recycle plastic, paper, cans, glass, toners, mobile phones and e-waste.

Register with us to join the eco conscious society for a greener and sustainable future.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Environmental Drawing Competition



EEG launched its 16th Environmental Drawing Competition in January to the youth of UAE to express their thoughts and ideas in their own distinct and creative way, demonstrating a sense of care and respect for the environment. Those students who participate in this unique nationwide event is given a platform to truly express their thoughts on sustainability, the environment and the nation in their own artistic way that will move the minds of the audience.

As the month came to an end, so did the competition. This year, a total of **593** Arabic and English medium schools and **36** EEG student members have registered for the competition. This year we have seen a 42% increase in registration compared 2021 and recorded the highest number of participation since the inception of this programme. The judging of the paintings, which is itself a tedious and seemingly tough task, will take place in April. The winners will be invited to attend EEG's Environmental Drawing Competition Awarding Ceremony in May of 2022, where they will be awarded prizes and certificates accordingly. We thank all the students who participated and drew their wonderful imagination

onto a paper, and we wish all the luck in the judging.

Green Call



With the advancement of technologies at such a rapid rate, we all have few mobile phones lurking in the back of our drawers, which are eventually dumped in the garbage and end up in landfills. Mobile phones contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium and brominated flame retardants. When these phones are thrown away and are burnt, these toxic metals are released into the environment polluting it. We invite you to participate in our mobile recycling drive “Green Call”, where you can collect old phones and responsibly recycle them with us. With recycling, **80%** of the materials are recoverable and keeps the environment clean while supporting the circular economy. EEG calls on all students, individuals, academics and corporates to join together as a community and be part of our green army. Register in the 7th cycle of “Green Call”, which was rolled out on **22nd March** and will be running until **22nd April**.

To register for this programme, follow this link:

[CLICK HERE](#)



Paper Walk

In celebration of Earth Hour, EEG rolled out its well-known annual paper collection campaign “Paper Walk”. This campaign was rolled out since 2009 and is now in its 14th cycle. While millions of people all around the world celebrated the Earth Hour by a coordinated commitment of switching off non-essential electric lights, a total of 63 EEG supporters collected 18,623 kg of paper and this resulted in reduction of 72 MT CO₂e, Saving of 418 Million BTU of Energy, Saving of 59 m³ of Landfill Space and Saving of 317 trees from being felled.

EEG’s Paper Walk campaign is an attempt to spread awareness that our natural resources are limited. From the equator to the boreal forests, roughly 15 billion trees are cut down every year out of which 37% is attributed to timber harvesting which in turn is used for paper manufacturing. It is our constant endeavor to spread awareness for the sustainable consumption and bring a positive change towards recycling within UAE community.



Educational News

EEG Welcomes Emirates International School

We are delighted to welcome “Emirates International School” as an Academic Member to help contribute in making impactful difference to the environment. Established in 1991, Emirates International School is a community service of the Al Habtoor Group. The school provides the highest quality international education for more than 2225 students from Early Years to Year 13. Emirates International School was the first in Dubai to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme; having received IB authorisation as an “IB World School” in 1992. For over 30 years, the results in the Diploma Programme have been some of the highest in the region. They are now one of a select group of schools who are authorized to offer all 4 IB programs: 1) Primary Years Programme (PYP); 2) Middle Years Programme; 3) Career-related Programme; and 4) the Diploma Programme. Learn more about EIS at <https://www.eischools.ae/jumeirah>

Habitat School Cultivating Love And Care For Nature

Habitat Schools group is a private group of three schools running under it, the International Indian School - Al Jurf, Habitat School - Al Jurf and Habitat School - Al Tallah. All schools are situated in different areas of the Emirate of Ajman. With a spacious campus and a farm, the school introduced the idea of including agriculture to the school syllabus. Within two years, the students have already produced 5,000 kg of corn, snake gourd, ribbed gourd, bitter gourd and other items. Farming is introduced to Grade three till Grade eight as a compulsory subject and is taught under temperature and humidity-controlled environment. Apart from traditional farming method in soil, students are taught hydroponic and aquaponics farming methods as well. The students are involved in every step from land preparation to harvesting. The school had won a prize from the Dubai Municipality as part of the civic body’s Grow Your Own Food initiative for being the best UAE Private School supporting organic farming. The prize money was donated to the Dubai Cares Project. When many think of UAE as an arid land, Habitat School has managed to change the perception as it has nurtured its land and created history by developing a new model of education in a culturally inclusive, technologically effective and ecologically sensitive way.

Local News

DEWA and Etihad WE Water Sharing Hub

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and Etihad Electricity and Water Authority (Etihad WE) have completed the strategic interconnection project in Masfout, which allows the exchange of up to two million gallons of potable water in case of emergencies or other purposes. The project supports the efforts of both organisations to promote water sustainability in the UAE. This project is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two parties to develop, operate and maintain strategic water interconnections and link the two water systems in specific locations to allow for water transfer in case of emergencies.

The UAE Water Strategy 2036 aims to ensure sustainable access to water during both normal and emergency conditions and address long-term future water security challenges. The water interconnection between DEWA and Etihad WE is a joint effort to ensure water security and protect water resources as well as increase the efficiency and operational capacity of water networks. This ensures that services provided are according to the highest standards of efficiency, reliability, availability and quality as well as securing different needs for ambitious developmental plans to keep pace with the growing demand for water in light of the UAE’s economic growth. The strategic interconnection of water networks between Etihad WE and DEWA, comes within the framework of the directives from the country’s wise leadership to implement the recommendations, which has resulted in a sustainable strategy for water security within the priorities of the country’s national agenda, which aims to integrate resources benefitting the advanced infrastructure owned by both parties through interconnection and water exchange in emergencies. This reduces operating risks and ensures continuity of services with the highest level of quality for all consumer sectors. These interconnections cover the Northern Emirates and areas under Etihad WE jurisdiction, it guarantees a sustainable and reliable water supply without interruption.



Migratory Birds Enriching UAE

Forging ahead in the economic sphere has never been enough for the UAE. A parallel priority is to ensure that the country's economic growth does not come at the expense of the environment. For the past decade, the UAE has become a bird-watcher's paradise with an increase in the population of migratory birds that fly into the country across thousands of kms of a time-tested route to nest and breed. In the last few years, with regular cloud seeding, increasing green cover and the addition of water bodies, at least 50-100 new species of migratory birds have begun halting in the UAE. The eco system here has been adapting itself to more green landscapes and water bodies and has registered an increase in migratory birds of new species in the last few years. Birds have been flying the routes for generations and the flight paths are embedded in their collective avian memory or integrated into their DNA. According to the UAE bird checklist, in the 1990s, the UAE had some 300 species of birds, which has now gone up to 465. Also, many birds that used to just pass through the UAE or migrated through the country are now staying for longer periods and some even for the whole year. Many species of birds are breeding here, taking support from the man-made environment. This is a source of much delight to ornithologists, bird-lovers and residents.

Upcoming Events

22nd Cycle of the ISEPSC



EEG's 22nd cycle of Inter School Environmental Public Speaking is scheduled to take place on **18th to 21st April** co-sponsored by OUNASS. This widely recognised competition is receiving registrations in very good numbers. The ISEPSC is an excellent opportunity for students to showcase environmental knowledge and talents that they possess, and to use this platform to share and exchange ideas amongst other students from schools across all 7 Emirates.

Sub-senior category (age group: 13- 15 years) are:

1. 'Water Security and Food Security - Correlated?
2. Conserving the True Lungs of the Planet : Key to Preventing Climate Change

Senior category (age group: 16 - 18 years) are:

3. Industrial Animal Agriculture - A Compelling Contributor to Climate Change?
4. Growing Cities : Redesigning Infrastructure Towards Net Zero

REGISTER HERE

EEG's 2nd Panel Discussion



EEG's 2nd Panel Discussion is scheduled for **26th April**. It will raise the curtain on the most critical topic of the Century - "The Green Grid Initiative: Commencement of the Renewable Energy Generation?" This panel discussion will focus on the challenges of switching to smart green grids, the efficiency of existing grids in the Arab region and internationally, the commercial availability of technology, the changes required in policies, international relations, environmental and geological challenges of establishing the grids, the key players involved, the role of private sector, the role of individuals (household panel) and the role of recycling organisations in the renewable economy. The objective of the plenary session is to understand the need to shift from the conventional grid system to a green grid system. Join this session <https://forms.gle/LR57APnfjJfabRzt6> and be a part of the forthcoming happening in the UAE Sustainability scape.

Neighbourhood Recycling Project (NRP)



The year 2022 is looking forward to a post pandemic economic growth, but it is important that we move forward keeping in mind our environmental actions. Through Emirates Environmental Group's various environmental programmes we try to involve all sectors of the community to come and participate in our sustainable movement. One of such eco programmes is the Neighbourhood Recycling Project (NRP), which aims to involve the youth in their summer break to engage in local actions for environment conservation by participating in a **community based recycling campaign**. The 12th cycle of NRP will be launched on **1st June** and we invite all the students to participate and join us in this green cause. Participation and registration details will follow soon.

Recycle. Reforest. Repeat



Every year the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is observed on **17th June**. Land degradation and desertification matters now more than ever in this pandemic induced economic crisis. To commemorate this important day, EEG will be rolling out its ever-popular paper recycling campaign called the '**Recycle. Reforest. Repeat**' in its 7th consecutive year from **17th June to 22nd July**. RRR aims to involve households, communities, public and private sector to participate in 'paper collection campaign' and in turn get an opportunity to participate in our tree plantation drive. Stay tuned for the registration details!





UNCCD COP15

UNCCD
NEWS

'Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity' this is the theme of the upcoming UNCCD COP15 to be held from 9-20 May 2022 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Releasing the brand for the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP15) the theme is a call to action to ensure land, the lifeline on this planet, continues to benefit present and future generations. About 70% of all ice-free land has been altered globally. Two billion hectares of land is degraded, according to World Resources Institute. The international community has pledged to restore one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030, according to the Global Potential for Land Restoration: Scenarios for the Global Land Outlook 2, with half of the global commitments made by Parties to the Convention. COP15 is expected to agree on actions to increase investment for land restoration and tackle the growing impacts of drought. The Convention is the global voice for land, helping to rally commitments for sustainable land and water management worldwide for a resilient future, with healthy land as a solid foundation for all life. It is ratified by 197 countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, which did so in 1997. UNCCD conferences of the parties are held every two years. COP14 was held in New Delhi, India, in September 2019. COP15 was re-scheduled from late 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



UN Environment Assembly Concludes with 14 Resolutions

UNEP
NEWS

The 5th UN Environment Assembly concluded this month in Nairobi with 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Assembly is made up of 193 UN Member States and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance. The world's ministers for the environment agreed to establish an Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to forge an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said this was most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris accord.

The 14 resolutions adopted by the UN Environment Assembly are:

Resolution to End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument

Resolution on an Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production

Resolution on Sustainable Lake Management

[Click for more](#)



UN to Honour Most Promising Initiatives to Restore Nature

UN
NEWS

Over 75% of Earth's lands and 66% of oceans are currently severely altered by human activity. A recent report found that as part of international climate and biodiversity goals, countries have promised to restore one billion hectares of ecosystems - an area larger than China. With this, the United Nations has published a call for countries to nominate World Restoration Flagships to honour the most ambitious and impactful global initiatives to rebuild degraded ecosystems. Governments are invited to present their most inspiring efforts for the call. More than 80 expressions of interest have already been registered and the first 10 World Restoration Flagships will be celebrated on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2022. The partnership of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, co-led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), is announcing the final stage of submissions of World Restoration Flagships to raise the profile and celebrate restoration efforts worldwide.

EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 12 new student members, 19 renewed student members, 2 new academic members and 1 renewed academic member in the month of March 2022

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Advika Bajla	New	Gokulan Kumar Ananthan	Renewal
Jiya Mangesh Shah	New	Isha Rajeev Nair	Renewal
Nandini Waykar	New	Jeremiah K. George	Renewal
P.S. Pragathi Senthiamizh	New	Jewelyn Anna Joseph	Renewal
Ruhi Dharmendra Dalal	New	Jiya Rohan Shah	Renewal
Saif Ali Saif Al Musalmani	New	Kush Rakesh Kumar Shah	Renewal
Shriya Sarang Apte	New	Nileena Mariam Jonesh	Renewal
Siddharth Gupta	New	Nimrah Mohammed Hussain	Renewal
Swarali Sarang Apte	New	Pranav Reddy Bussa	Renewal
Trisha Bimal Thakkar	New	Rishit Singh	Renewal
Vidhi Santhosh Rakshe	New	Saher Viaya Kumar	Renewal
Heer Bhavdeep Patel	New	Sai Sudeep Punukollu	Renewal
Ridhima Singh	Renewal	Sai Sujit Punukollu	Renewal
Aaditya Gandhi	Renewal	Sainath Manikandan	Renewal
Ahmad Shaeel Akhtar	Renewal	Sanmith Shetty	Renewal
Arya Sankar Banerjee	Renewal	-	-

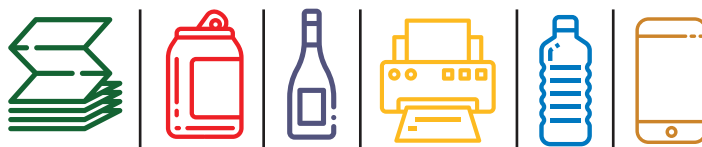
ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

Ajman University	New	American School Dubai	Renewal
Emirates International Private School LLC	New	-	-



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

- » GHG Reductions 425 (MTCO₂)
- » Saving of 3,115 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 876 m³ of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 1,863 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 627 Gallons of Gasoline



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 102,178 kg of Paper from 226 participants during the month of March 2022, an increase of 62% compared to February 2022. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2022 so as to enable us to work towards our target. The top collectors were:	Latifa School For Girls	2,590	Jagadip Sai Seetharaman	1,320
	Our Own High School, Dubai	1,650	Ali Darwish Mubarak Salim Alzaabi	1,198
	Sabari Indian School	1,510	Jamila Ali Al Zaabi	1,177
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected 384 kg of Aluminum Cans from 19 participants during the month of March 2022, a decrease of 94% compared to February 2022. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2022 so as to enable us to work towards our target. The top collectors were:	New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi	35	-	-
	Umm Al Qura Private School UAQ	17		
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected 12,191 kg of Plastic from 114 participants during the month of March 2022, an increase of 21% compared to February 2022. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2022. The top collectors for the month were:	New York University Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi	510	Mezna Ali Al Zaabi	273
	Our Own High School, Dubai	160	Ali Darwish Mubarak Salim Alzaabi	254
	The Arbor School	20	Fatima Abdullah Mohammed Al Dhanhani	100
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
EEG collected 264 pieces of Toners from 10 participants during the month of March 2022, an increase of 102% compared to February 2022. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2022. The top collectors were:	-	54	Toshith Bhaumik	82
			Tanisha Khorana	78
			Jovan Shino Chacko	34
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected 154 pieces of Mobile Phones from 6 participants during the month of March 2022, a decrease of 25% compared to February 2022. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2022. The top collectors were:	-	-	Bhakti Venkatesh Hegde	60
			Veda Dinesh	32
			Mehak Bhatia	30
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 10,388 kg of Glass Bottles from 41 participants during the month of March 2022, an increase of 67% compared to February 2022. We thank our participants for their support to us and encourage them to continue collecting in the year 2022 to help us achieve our targets. The top collectors were:	-	-	Sultan Ali Al Zaabi	599
			Aera Ali Al Zaabi	591
			Saher Vidya Kumar	106
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 298 kg of E-waste from 15 participants during the month of March 2022, a decrease of 80% compared to February 2022. We encourage our participants to continue collecting and prevent these materials from ending in landfills. The top collectors were:	-	-	Abdulrahman Ali Al Zaabi	67
			Laila	40
			Hari Prakash Subramoniam	20
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG has collected 22 kg of Scrap metal from 3 participants during the month of March 2022, a decrease of 90% compared to February 2022. We invite and encourage our participants to put more effort and to join this new programme. The top collector was:	-	-	Ali Darwish Mubarak Salim Alzaabi	15

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.

