

EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUP



April 2023
Issue 4



Upcoming Events

EEG
مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

**THINKER YOUR VOICE
SET YOUR WORDS
TO ACTION**

23rd Inter School Public Speaking Competition
25th - 28th April 2023

SUB - SENIOR TOPICS

- The Greenest of Millennials
The Greenest of Millennials
- Thriving Cities, Thriving Plans:
Addressing Fresh Water Scarcity

SENIOR TOPICS

- Building a Sustainable Future:
Unlocking Locally Driven
Sustainable Change
- Resilient Future's Blueprint:
Our Resilience in the Ticking Clock

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**CORPORALISING THE
CIRCULAR PATH:
A SUSTAINABLE NECESSITY**

1st Panel Discussion - 2023
10th May

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BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES:

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Villa No. 117a - JMR. 68, Jumeirah 1, Between old Dubai Zoo
& Beach Centre.
For more info, call EEG at 04 344 8622, or
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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear Members, Readers and Well Wishers,

Emirates Environmental Group offers heartiest greetings and felicitations to you all on the auspicious occasion of Ramadhan. May all your prayers and wishes be answered.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest climate report, the findings of the report point out that climate change interacts with global trends such as unsustainable use of natural resources, growing urbanisation, social inequalities, losses and damages from extreme events and a pandemic, jeopardising future development.

Increased heat waves, droughts and floods are already exceeding plants' and animals' tolerance thresholds, driving mass mortalities in species such as trees and corals which has exposed millions of people to acute food and water insecurity. To avoid mounting loss of life, biodiversity and infrastructure; ambitious, accelerated action is required to adapt to climate change, at the same time we need to make rapid, deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. So far, progress on adaptation is uneven and there are increasing gaps between action taken and action needed.

As an accredited NGO to several UN agencies, EEG is working tirelessly and effectively to close these gaps and provide the local community with numerous platforms and opportunities to engage in a meaningful way towards the protection and preservation of the environment. In March, EEG participated in several engagements, to advance the reach of environment protection and stimulate climate change action. EEG attended virtually "The Nairobi Dialogue, One Year of Resolution, Expectations of Stakeholders" organised by the Nairobi Group of Friends to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution on 1st March. Read more on page 3.

We participated in MOCCA's inaugural virtual workshop for the development of UAE's first Long-Term Strategy (LTS) on 8th March. Read more on page 4. On 8th March, we also virtually attended a webinar of United Nations Office - UAE, titled The Health-Climate Nexus. Read more on page 3. As a Board Member of WorldGBC, I attended a virtual meeting on 9th March for the WorldGBC Board of Directors and another meeting on the 20th with the Advisory Group.

During the month I also attended several engagements to celebrate International Women's Day and shared my journey to inspire others. Read about them on page 3. Upon receiving a special invitation by the Consul General of India, I attended a Dinner Conversation on 12th March, with the most admired and impactful educationist in India at Emirates Hills, Dubai. More on page 4. March 15th was a very hectic day for us we continued the planting season by planting saplings of Ghaf and Sidr. Read more on page 4. I also attended and spoke at a

Conference titled "African Metals Recycling Confex" organised by Waste & Recycling MEA in association with the Recycling Association of Africa (RAA) at Ritz Carlton Hotel. I moderated in the afternoon a Panel Discussion as a Co-Founder and treasurer of EmiratesGBC under the topic "Water as a Precious Resource: Sustainable Water Management" at Shaw Contract Office, Dubai. Concluding the day, I along with my team attended the launch event - "The Road to COP28" in Expo City to raise awareness and mobilise the country's youth and wider community for making COP28 a huge success. Read more on page 4.

On 16th March, I attended as a VIP Guest Speaker at Global Trade Facilitation Summit organised by ICC - UAE under the theme "Trade Transformation and Technology". Read more on page 5. On 18th March, at the Funun Arts Women's Global Conference under the theme #EmbraceEquity I was felicitated for my efforts in the field of environment and sustainability. Read more on page 5. On 19th March, EEG was honoured to be presented with the Westford Awards under the category of "Social Impact" by the Westford University College. Read more on page 7.

Along with my team, I was delighted to attend a workshop organised by the Circular Economy Council under the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) on 21st March at Ajman X. Read more on page 5. As a part of Earth Hour flagship recycling activity, we rolled out the well-known annual paper collection campaign on 25th March the "Paper Walk" exclusively for our members. A total of 83 EEG members collected 20,115 kg of paper. Read more on page 5.

On the educational front, we concluded the 18th cycle of "Environmental Drawing Competition" on 31st March. This cycle has received amazing artworks from schools across all the 7 Emirates. Read More on page 6. The 23rd cycle of the Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition is gaining steam as we get nearer to the dates of the programme scheduled to take place on 25th April to 28th April. Read More on page 7. As for our recycling programmes, we launched our unique month long mobile recycling project "Green Call" on 23rd March and it will conclude on 23rd April. Read More on page 7. Our Community Programme the "One Root, One Communi-tree" (OROC) project which we rolled out on 22nd Jan is continuing to receive registrations and the deposits of the required recyclable materials. Read More on page 6.

EEG's 1st panel discussion of the year is planned for 10th May under the title "Corporealising the Circular Path: A Sustainable Necessity". This panel aims to promote the use of material resources available by applying the 3 basic principles of circular economy: reduce, reuse and recycles. Read More on page 7. Your contribution to all our work is very valuable to us and I hope that by reading this issue, you will be motivated and encouraged to continue working with us for a better environment.



1st
March

The Nairobi Dialogue, One Year of Resolution, Expectations of Stakeholders

Plastic pollution has become a transboundary menace. According to UNEP, almost 11 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans every year. A landmark decision was reached at the United Nations Environment Assembly session in 2022 where the member states agreed to formulate a legally binding instrument to tackle the issue. This historic event led to the origin of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) being assigned the task of assessing and drafting a comprehensive legal document. Coinciding with the preparations for the 2nd session of INC in May 2023, the Nairobi Group of Friends to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, co-chaired by Chile and Portugal, hosted an online event “The Nairobi Dialogue, One Year of Resolution, Expectations of Stakeholders” on 1st March, which the Emirates Environmental Group attended. The UNEP Executive Director addressed this forum by mentioning, “We are not against plastic. We just don’t want plastic in the environment. The science is pretty clear around this subject. We now just want everyone to move forward.” The virtual session also gathered ambassadors from Chile and Portugal, public policy experts from the University of Portsmouth and CIEL, the International Alliance for Waste Pickers and a myriad of concerned organisations worldwide to discuss how the process of signing a legally binding Plastic Treaty can be strengthened and how various stakeholders can contribute to the INC process.

International Women’s Day

On the occasion of International Women’s Day on 8th March, EEG Co-Founder and Chairperson was invited by various entities to celebrate the day. As a pioneering woman in the environmental sector, she attended 4 events where she gave her view, shared her experience, motivation, and challenges. She was able to give encouragement and great advice to the women out there, striding forward to contribute to a world facing challenges that they can overcome to become stronger.

7th March

On the evening of 7th March, on the eve of International Women’s Day, she attended a panel discussion organised and conducted by the CEO Club titled “How Women Rise Globally and What Makes Them Thrive?” As one of the 6 panellists and the only Arab panellist, she focused her discussion on Emirati women. She shared how Emirati women are already taking on leadership roles across the country. She further iterated that women in the country are empowered, but to reach the top, women have to look beyond the challenges and work towards the goals with determination and innate intuition that push them forward.

8th March

On the day of International Women’s Day, EEG chairperson attended with her team a celebratory event held by Tristar as a speaker under the theme “Digit ALL - Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality”. On this eventful evening, she gave a powerful and empowering speech to all the attendees, which received very positive feedback. She highlighted how technology and innovations are helping women across the world to progress much faster and be able to combat the obstacles faced by women, especially in countries where resources are scarce. She shared with the audience numerous examples from across the world and from her own life experience on how digitisation and technological advancements have tackled the issue of gender disproportionality.

10th March & 16th March

On 10th March, EEG chairperson attended a small virtual celebration held by Accenture (EEG’s corporate member), where she was invited to be part of the conversation on International Women’s Day. However, to celebrate even further, she attended as a keynote speaker at the celebratory event held by Accenture on 16th March under the theme “Be Without Limits”. In her keynote address, she shared her life story and how she managed to overcome and address all the challenges that obstructed her way and how she continued on with great perseverance to be able to get her voice heard and make an impact in the sustainability domain nationally, regionally and globally. Her key take away message was, “Do not limit your challenges. Challenge your limits’. Allow yourself to be challenged, and challenge your own knowledge and capacities. Out of this process will emerge a stronger and better you.”



8th
March

The Health-Climate Nexus Webinar

EEG Chairperson attended a virtual webinar titled ‘The Health Climate Nexus’ on 8th March 2023. It was organised by the United Nations UAE. The webinar speakers were:

1. Mr. Mazen Malkawi - World Health Organisation
2. Ms. Mollie Fair - United Nations Population Fund
3. Mr. Hossein Fadaei - Un Emergency Management Group
4. Ms. Deena Mariyam - Health Working Group

Few of the key points discussed revolved around the climate sensitive health risks, the preparedness that the health system needs to make, climate vulnerability factors leading to deteriorated health, guidelines to increase capacity and resilience of the health systems, measures to control respiratory diseases and water borne diseases caused by pollution.



8th
March

UAE's First Long-Term Strategy: Input to COP28 and Path to Net Zero 2050

EEG participated in MOCCA's inaugural virtual workshop for the development of UAE's first Long-Term Strategy (LTS) on 8th March. The LTS will be UAE's official document encompassing the nation's official long-term mitigation plan (UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategy) along with other vital aspects like adaptation and enablers. It will also provide perspective to many discussions at COP28. MOCCA has requested technical and visionary inputs for LTS from a variety of public and private sector sustainability-focused organisations, including EEG, to help shape the UAE's future path. EEG is excited to contribute to such an essential initiative. Incorporating inputs from various entities across different sectors portrays the highly inclusive and evidence-based approach demonstrated by MOCCA while paving the UAE's road to sustainability. All signatories of the Paris Agreement are encouraged to communicate GHG emissions reduction strategies. While NDC is a short-term mandatory disclosure done by nations, LTS turns out to be a long-term voluntary plan and it basically encapsulates long-term decarbonisation targets (usually 2050), with more focus on ambition and visionary inputs that can lead to limiting global warming within 1.5 or 2 Degrees Celsius by 2050. Although its scope is far-sighted, the potential of LTS to contribute to the Global Stocktake, operationalise the Net Zero strategy and set a long-term direction for previously submitted NDCs cannot be underestimated.

12th
March

Dinner Invite from Consul General of India to the UAE

EEG prides itself on being one of the most influential and impactful environmental awareness and educational platforms in the region. EEG's Educational Programmes have been pivotal in raising environmental literacy in the region particularly amongst the youth. EEG Chairperson also contributes as an advisor to various educational institutions. As part of building effective partnerships and networking amongst the different communities in the country, she was very delighted to accept an invitation to attend a dinner conversation from the HE the Consul General of India with one of the most impactful educationists in India, Prof. Achyuta Samanta. He is the founder of 2 renowned institutes in India. The dinner was held on 12th March at the residence of the Consul General. EEG chairperson highly enjoyed the dinner event and found it quite informative.



15th
March

Tree Planting

EEG continues its endeavour to increase the green spaces through the first of its kind 'Adopt a Tree' campaign that is held under the slogan of "For Our Emirates We Plant". The objective of this programme is to involve corporates to take part in sustaining the environment, and to assure that sustainable development can only be achieved with the constant corporation between entities in harmony with nature. Under this programme, EEG organised on 15th March a tree planting drive at the Almutathar Nature Reserve in the Emirate of Sharjah. The drive was conducted in partnership with EPAA where TotalEnergies and Bahri & Mazroei participated. A total of 700 trees saplings of Ghaf & Samar were planted. Upon maturity in 2-3 years these trees will sequester 4.13 MT CO₂ emissions annually. Since the inception of this programme in 2007 till date including the trees planted in March, the total number of indigenous trees that have been pledged by EEG is 2,115,114.



15th
March

Mega Launch of "Road to COP28": Keeping Youth at the Heart of Climate Action

EEG Co-Founder and Chairperson, along with her team attended the 1st COP28 Presidency-hosted and youth-led mega-initiative organised at Expo City, Dubai on 15th March under the theme "Road to COP28". With climate action at the centre, the event revolved around four strategic pillars: Participation, Action, Voice and Education. The former segment of the event that occurred at Jubilee Park was an extraordinary platform for young people to learn about and share perspectives on climate action. Transnational youth of the country exuberantly participated in discussions, debates, knowledge sessions, training, art performances, innovation showcase, presentations, polls and surveys on crucial climate topics. Additionally, the event featured a sustainable marketplace, farming and cooking stations and intergenerational dialogue. The creatively-designed forum inspired and empowered many youngsters.



The latter segment of the event delivered at Al Wasl Plaza elevated the overall impact manifold when dignitaries like HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber (Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, President-Designate COP28), HE Mariam Almhairi (Minister of Climate Change and Environment), HE Shamma



bint Suhail al Mazrui (Minister of Community Development and COP28 Youth Climate Champion), HE Razan Al Mubarak (UN Climate Change High-level Champion) took to the stage. The leaders had an explicit vision of setting an example at COP28 that will make youth involvement the new normal for every COP. It was highlighted how the UAE has always strived to tackle climate challenges head-on, recalling the legacy of the man of sustainability, the Founding Father of the nation. HE Dr. Al Jaber launched the ‘International Youth Climate Delegate Programme’ (YCDP) to ensure youth are at the heart of the fight against climate change. UAE will sponsor 100 international youth delegates to attend the crucial COP28 summit in Dubai, prioritising those from the least developed countries, small island developing states, indigenous people and other minority groups from across the world.

HE Dr. Al Jaber made a special appeal to global leaders worldwide to ensure the meaningful inclusion of youth in all climate-associated talks. To encourage the youth, he stated “We may not know what the future holds but we know who holds the future. It is you – our young people. Learn as much as you can about the climate challenge. Bring your passion, your focus and your courage to the task of meeting that challenge and turn it into an opportunity”. More than 3,000 individuals witnessed the day-long gathering with majority of them being youth.

16th March *Global Trade Facilitation Summit GTFS 2023*

EEG Chairperson was invited as a VIP Guest and Expert Speaker by the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC) at the 2nd Edition of Global Trade Facilitation Summit, themed “Trade Transformation and Technology”. The Summit took place during the week of 13-17th March 2023 at Dubai Chambers. On the 2nd plenary day, she gave a presentation titled “Achieving the ESG Goals: How can businesses stay on track to deliver real impact?” With real life examples, she shared the importance of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues, the deliverables, reporting, necessity for long term goals, stakeholder involvement, effectiveness and how a company can be ESG ready.



18th March *Felicitation in the month of March*

To commemorate International Women’s Day, Funun Arts Group conducted the Global Women Conference on 18th March. The event highlighted global women’s achievements and gathered woman leaders from different nationalities and different sectors. Mrs. Habiba Al Mar’ashi, EEG Co-Founder & Chairperson was amongst the women awarded at this event under the ‘Most Influential Women’. The engagement included an art exhibition, art competition, panel discussion, entertainment programmes, followed by networking gala dinner.



21st March *MOCCAIE Workshop*

EEG Chairperson and team attended on 21st March a workshop organised by the Circular Economy Council under the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAIE) at Ajman X. The workshop, titled “Dynamic of Circularity Series - Extended Producer Responsibility”, brought together various key players in the areas that can drive the circular economy goals in the country. The workshop revolved around the topic of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) from a global perspective and how it can be implemented in the UAE. The discussion included designs, policies, adoption, performance indicators, strengths and weaknesses, implementation, and road to its operation in the country. All the attendees shared their views towards the end of the workshop and actions that can be taken for the success of the EPR scheme in the UAE.


25th March *Paper Walk Project*

We may seem to have made progress ditching paper for the digital world, but if paper wastage facts are anything to go by, it is still very much a part of our lives. Studies say from 2001 to 2019, a total of 386 million hectares of forests were lost globally. By 2060, the global paper consumption is expected to double so will the pressure on world forests.


To take cautious proactive action in “working together for the environment” EEG’s student, academic, and corporate members went the extra mile by participating in the Paper Walk project and collected thousands of kilograms of paper to recycle, as the world geared up to celebrate Earth Hour on 25th March. This member exclusive campaign aimed at sensitizing the community towards environmental protection and preservation. Along with this, EEG urged its members and wider community to traditionally celebrate the Earth Hour by switching off lights for an hour from 8.30pm - 9.30pm. While the Earth Hour was held on 25th of March, considering the convenience of our members, EEG opened its doors to receive collections on 26th of March for Student members and 27th for Academic and Corporate Members. 83 participating entities deposited their collections and handed over a total of 20,115 kg of paper, which included newspapers, cardboards, books etc. which resulted in:

Reduction

 78 MT CO₂e

 64 m³ of Landfill Space

Saving

 452 Million BTU of Energy

 342 trees

Participants who managed to achieve their targets will be given an E-certificate of participation and a sapling of a native tree to plant under their names on 23.12.23.



Environmental Drawing Competition

Educating the youth on Sustainable Development and its related subjects gives hope of a sustainable future. This “Education for a Sustainable Future” is a transformative learning process that equips students, teachers and school systems to innovative ways of thinking needed to achieve economic prosperity and responsible citizenships while restoring the health of the ecosystem. EEG aims through the annual Environmental Drawing Competition to provide an ideal platform for embedding sustainable development knowledge into everyday learning process.

EEG launched the 18th cycle of Environmental Drawing Competition in January 2023. As March came to an end, so did the competition. Year after year, the Environmental Drawing Competition provides a platform for the youth in both regular and special needs schools to express their environmental thoughts and ideas through the strokes of a paintbrush. The Competition’s aim is to provide a creative platform for emerging artists across the Emirates to express their creativity by transforming their innovative ideas into practical reality.



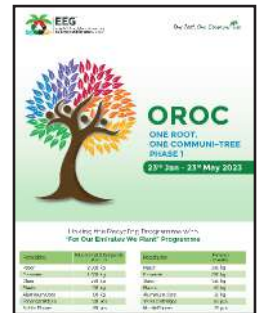
The judging of the submitted artworks is scheduled for April 2023 and the winners will be invited to attend EEG’s Environmental Drawing Competition Awarding Ceremony in May 2023 to be felicitated. We would like to thank all the students who drew vibrant paintings, and we wish every participant all the luck.

‘One Root One Communi-Tree’

As we all know, recycling is crucial for the environment and sustainability. It helps conserve natural resources, reduce energy consumption, and decrease waste in landfills.

By participating in the 14th cycle of ‘One Root One Communi-Tree’, you are contributing to the environment’s well-being and getting a chance to leave a green footprint by planting a tree. We have collected a significant amount of 8 types of recyclables, but we still have a long way to go.

Within the 2 month of this project, a total of 313 participating entities have registered to be part of the sustainability movement. Till the end of March, a total of



 92,510 kgs Paper	 19,907 kgs Plastic	 1,131 kgs Aluminium Cans	 24,488 kgs Glass	 547 pcs Toners	 525 pcs Mobile Phones	 1,414 kgs E-waste
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The Phase 1 of the 14th cycle will end on **23rd May**. This is also a reminder call to everyone to submit their collections at EEG’s office and encourage your suppliers, stakeholder, friends and family to participate. EEG urges you to join and help create a better world for ourselves and future generations.

To register, please follow the link and fill in the details: [Click Here](#)

Let’s make this OROC cycle the most successful one yet. Together, we can make a real impact on the environment and create a sustainable future for all.

Re-New Our World

We are excited to share that the 1st phase of our water innovation challenge, “Re-New Our World” has been a massive success! With more than 700 registrations from different schools across the Emirates, we have seen an incredible level of enthusiasm and interest in promoting water conservation and sustainability.

The online workshops held as part of the 1st phase were incredible, with many participants joining in the discussions and learning about innovative solutions to water-related challenges. The level of engagement and interest from the participants was truly inspiring, and we hope that this momentum will continue throughout the competition.

As we move to the next step, we want to encourage all participants to work on their innovative ideas and projects related to water conservation and sustainability. We believe that every idea has the potential to make a real difference in the world, and we can’t wait to see what the youth will come up with.



The submission deadline is **April 25th**, and we are looking forward to receiving some truly amazing ideas and projects. The Re-New Our World Water Innovation Challenge is an opportunity for the student community to show the world what they are capable of. The 2023 edition has received the support of corporate partners Xylem, Axis Communications and Nestle Waters at platinum level, Droopole and No More Bottles at silver level and KPS at bronze level.



Green Call

Modern day living habits have tremendously shifted to depend on technology. Research shows that 9 out of 10 adults around the world own a mobile device. Though mobile phones have transformed our lives and brought us many benefits. The impact of the smartphone industry on the environment is catastrophic. In continuation of our strategy to protect the environment and preserve natural resources, EEG rolled out the 2023 cycle of the Green Call project - a unique 1 month mobile phones recycling project to help build an environmentally conscious society. Last year, corporates, academic institutions and individuals together collected **1,751** pieces of mobile phones under this project. This collection transpired in:

1. Saving of **6,106** Gallons of Gasoline
2. The conservation of **1,438** trees from being cut.

This year we aim to surpass last year's record and collect **2,000** pieces. Help us to achieve that by collecting your old mobile phones and depositing them with us. Reach the set target and get a chance to plant a tree under your name and a certificate! That is a promise we keep!

Register here to participate in this project

[Click Here](#)



Educational News

Westford Awards

On **19th March**, EEG was honoured to be presented with the Westford Awards under the category of “Social Impact” by the Westford University College. The awards recognised the efforts of several entities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and individuals that have worked hard to make a major contribution to the UAE. The momentous event highlighted the achievements of these organisations and individuals for quality, innovation, and excellence as accelerators for growth in over 40 categories addressing more than 10 business sectors. A team from EEG received the award on behalf of the organisation which was conducted in its 1st cycle in a magnificent event at the Madinat Jumeirah Hotel - Mina Al Salam.

Upcoming Events

Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition

EEG's Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition is an excellent opportunity for students in the UAE to showcase environmental knowledge and talents that they possess. This platform is a good tool to share and exchange ideas amongst students from public and private schools across UAE. This one-of-a-kind unique competition is running for the last 23 years. It gives us a sense of pride to be able to provide a platform that boasts the skills of the youth with sound knowledge on sustainability, fosters their responsibility to tackle global challenges and prepares them to be the pilots of the country's sustainability journey.

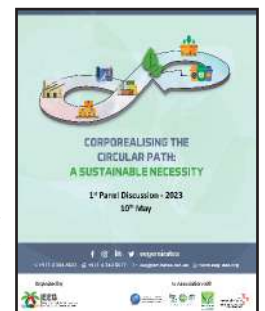
Over the last 3 years, EEG has successfully conducted this competition virtually in accordance with the COVID-19 protocols set by the government to curb the spread of the pandemic. Despite the virtual versions being very successful and receiving positive feedback from teachers and students, there is a special atmosphere in face-to-face communications and networking. We are very pleased to share with all that we are going back to the physical mode of conducting this programme where students and teachers will be able to communicate effectively with each other and make new connections. The 23rd cycle is planned to take place at the Dubai Knowledge Park from **25th April to 28th April 2023**. We are excited to hear the strong cases from our budding environmentalists!



'Corporealising the Circular Path: A Sustainable Necessity'

Responding to the global climate crisis and conserving the world resources for future generations requires a collaborative approach. This precious and unique world of ours is at war and we have to work in partnership with our planet and fellow inhabitants to heal the damage that our species has wreaked. Towards this end, EEG's 1st Panel Discussion of 2023 will be conducted under the theme 'Corporealising the Circular Path: A Sustainable Necessity' on **10th May** at Holiday Inn & Suites Dubai Science Park.

Recent scientists have delivered a “final warning” on the climate crisis, as rising greenhouse gas emissions push the world to the brink of irrevocable damage that only swift and drastic action can avert. This panel discussion will focus on what is urgently needed to understand the long-term life cycle impacts of goods and services and rethink ways of undoing the harm that results from short-term thinking and unsustainable practices, not only on the planet but on every living being that inhabits it. Expert Panel of Speakers, will come together to draw attention towards a more sustainable model that can be established by utilising the concept of a circular economy, where raw materials are maintained longer in manufacturing cycles and can be utilised repeatedly, resulting in significantly less waste. The goal of a shift to a circular economy is to reduce the negative effects of a linear economy while also improving the system's overall health.



To be a part of this intellectual and solution oriented session, please register here:

[Click Here](#)



UNCCD
NEWS

Counting trees from space for people and planet

A collaboration between the UNCCD, FAO, Aduna, Orgiis and GLOBHE has resulted in the ability to recognise individual baobab trees from space. FAO's cloud computing platform SEPAL and dense time-series approach have empowered conservationists in the Sahel region of Africa to identify individual tree species through phenology or the seasonal foliage pattern. Baobab trees, known as the "tree of life" are an essential part of the African topography. They are valued for their ability to fixate soils, provide a barrier to land degradation, support food security and serve as a source of sustainable income. They cannot be grown on plantations and each tree is unique and cherished by local communities for its nourishing properties. They require special monitoring and protection owing to the detrimental impact of climate change, growing energy demand, rapid urbanisation and a declining stock of seedlings. The project has accomplished training a computer system to plot the trees on a map. The tree locations are merged with the phenology data to mark individual baobabs over vast geographic regions. These maps can be used to inform local communities of the location, number and condition of the baobabs, enabling them to keep an eye on this natural resource actively. The project's success is a significant leap towards the enhancement of conservation methods in the Sahel. It can aid the execution of the Great Green Wall Initiative, promote value chain development and facilitate better land management decisions to safeguard these green powerhouses.

[Click for more](#)
UNEP
NEWS

Measuring Progress: Water-related ecosystems and the SDGs

UNEP published a report titled "Measuring Progress: Water-related ecosystems and the SDGs" on the progress made towards achieving the environmental dimension of the SDGs. It was released in March a week ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference. Stats in the report display that although there has been some advancement, the world is still off track to achieve the environmental SDGs by 2030. The report states that 59% of environment-related indicators for the SDGs now have adequate data to track progress, a significant rise from 34% in 2018. However, the report calls on governments to enhance their statistical capacity and promote the use of innovative data sources such as big data and citizen science to bridge the remaining data gaps. Water plays a critical role in achieving all 17 SDGs. The report emphasises the importance of integrated policies that recognise the interconnected nature of the land and water-based ecosystems. The UN 2023 Water Conference aimed to spur progress on water-related SDGs including enhanced access to data and information, and increased consideration of economic and environmental accounting to mobilise investment towards the protection of wetlands and other water bodies. The report recommends an all-sector approach to achieve SDGs and emphasise the need for sound policy decisions based on data. It also underlines the gravity of using analytical methods to explore interlinkages between freshwater and marine-related ecosystem indicators and other environmental, social, and economic factors. Overall, the report spotlighted that innovative approaches to developing global data sets and refining global water indicators are imperative to fulfil Agenda 2030.

[Click for more](#)

EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG Welcomed 11 new student members, 20 renewed student members, 1 new academic member and 1 renewed academic members in the month of March 2023

Student Membership

Aditya Nair	New	Heer Bhavdeep Patel	Renewal
Dhanesh Ravisankar	New	Isha R. Nair	Renewal
Mannat Arora	New	Nandini Waykar	Renewal
Randel Joy	New	Nimrah Mohammed Hussain	Renewal
Suhani Nimesh Kumar Patel	New	Prabani Sodhi	Renewal
Tanushas Sharma	New	Pranav Reddy Bussa	Renewal
Thea Animesh Tapiawala	New	Ridhima Singh	Renewal
Vidushi Bikash Verma	New	Rishit Singh	Renewal
Devanshi Jayeshkumar Parekh	New	Ruhi Dharmendra	Renewal
Shrita Dutiya	New	Sachin JP	Renewal
Vidushi Bikash Verma	New	Shivani Adduri	Renewal
Anshuman Rath	Renewal	Swarali Sarang Apte	Renewal
Anveet Kaur	Renewal	Trisha Bimal Thakkar	Renewal
Chris Sebastian Rajan	Renewal	Vidhi Santhosh Rakshe	Renewal
Christina Mary Rajan	Renewal	Tvisha Negandhi	Renewal
Gauri Unnikrishnan	Renewal	-	-

Academic Membership

New Indian Model School Dubai	New	Ajman University	Renewal
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The collection of materials for recycling in the month of March resulted in the following benefits:

- » **GHG Reductions 370 (MTCO₂)**
- » **Saving of 2,858 Million BTU of Energy**
- » **Saving of 827 m³ of Landfill Space**
- » **Saving of 1,922 trees from being felled**
- » **Saving of 2,058 Gallons of Gasoline**



CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN EEG has collected 86,302 kg of Paper from 256 participating entities during the month of March 2023, an increase of 58% compared to February 2023. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2023 so as to enable us to work towards our target. The Top Collectors were:	Our Own High School - Dubai	3,870	Eesha Chhibber	1,763
	Ethen Girls School for Basic Education	3,110	Anish Nagasai SP	1,650
	Bright Riders School DIP	2,350	Nia Treeza Tony	1,310
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN EEG collected 883 kg of Aluminium Cans from 33 participating entities during the month of March 2023, a decrease of 88% compared to February 2023. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2023 so as to enable us to work towards our target. The Top Collectors were:	Umm Ammar Kindergarten	30	-	-
	Abi Bin Kaab School for Basic Education	24		
	Al Marefa School & Hatta School 2 (Tie)	20		
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN EEG collected 12,009 kg of Plastic from 143 participating entities during the month of March 2023, an increase of 19% compared to February 2023. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2023. The top collectors for the month were:	Umm Alalaa School Fujairah	460	Maryam Humaidan	260
	Mubarak Bin Mohammed School	340	Abdullah Salah Jassim Mohammad Bin Kalban	190
	Al Ruwydha School	235	Eesha Chhibber	157
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN EEG collected 369 pieces of Toners from 10 participating entities during the month of March 2023 an increase of 30% compared to February 2023. Recycling is crucial for the future health of our planet. In the year 2023, join us in our recycling campaigns and help reduce landfills in the UAE. The Top collectors were:	Cambridge International School	13	Anish Nagasai SP	90
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN EEG collected 554 pieces of Mobile Phones from 8 participating entities during the month of March 2023, an increase of 3,159% compared to February 2023. Adopt Eco conscious living and deposit your mobile phones in the year 2023 and create a sustainable society for our future generations. The Top collectors were:	-	-	Shreyas Shankar Baliga	30
				Haasini Lakshmi SP
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN EEG has collected 9,236 kg of Glass Bottles from 63 participating entities during the month of March 2023, a decrease of 25% compared to February 2023. You have the power to turn the tide, reverse the effects of climate change by recycling. Take action now and contribute to mitigate carbon emissions. The Top collectors were:	The Millennium School	40	Krishna Agrawal	132
	Hatta School 2	15	Hedaya Jaber	105
			Maryam Humaidan	100
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN EEG has collected 371 kg of E-waste from 21 participating entities during the month of March 2023, a decrease of 74% compared to February 2023. We encourage our participants to continue collecting actively and prevent these materials from ending in landfills. The Top collectors were:	Alarqam Private School	15	Haasini Lakshmi SP	106
			Anirudh Balaji	27
			Eesha Chhibber	26
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN EEG has collected 149 kg of Scrap metal from 14 participating entities during the month of March 2023, a decrease of 32% compared to February 2023. Take a pledge and upsurge your recyclable deposits to support the country in its NET ZERO strategy. The Top collectors were:	-	-	Sharon Lewis	33
			Maryam Humaidan	30
			Shiven Seth	21

EEG invites all its members & participating entities to maximise their contributions to achieve the set targets of the above campaigns and focus on excelling in their collections for this year to contribute to the welfare of the society and a healthier environment.

