

# EEG EDU NEWS

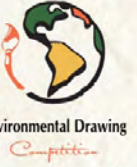
Together for a Better Environment<sup>®</sup>



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة  
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



February 2024  
Issue 2



## Environmental Drawing Competition

2024  
4<sup>th</sup> January

For Registration



### Upcoming Events

**24<sup>th</sup> Cycle Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition**  
22 - 25 APRIL 2024

**Sub-Senior**  
22 April Conservation: Envisaging Cities of Tomorrow

**Senior**  
24 April Harmonised Communities: Leading Climate Conscious Society?

23 April Pending Eco-Excursions: Conservation & Sustainable Tourism

25 April Resilience of Oceans: Comprehending Maritime Security

**OROC**  
ONE ROOT, ONE COMMUNI-TREE  
PHASE 1  
24<sup>th</sup> Jan - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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

Recyclables	Academics	Organizations	Families
Paper	2,000 kg	2,000 kg	500 kg
Plastic	250 kg	150 kg	40 kg
Glass	250 kg	250 kg	100 kg
Aluminium Cans	100 kg	200 kg	30 kg
E-Waste	500 kg	750 kg	250 kg
Mobile Phones	250 pcs	400 pcs	200 pcs
Toner Cartridges	700 pcs	150 pcs	45 pcs

### Click on the issue

Chairperson's Note	2
EEG News	3
Educational News	5
Ongoing Events	6
Upcoming Events & UN News	7
Members News	8
Waste Management Report	9

Reach Out to EEG for More Details



#### BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES:

From Monday to Friday & Sunday 9:00AM to 5:00PM  
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



eegemirates



#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Pranav Heryani,  
Varun Vishnu Prasad, Bayan Al Maali,  
Carlo Cuarto, Jipson Joy

DESIGNED BY:  
Munim Khan



## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear members, associates, and cherished readers,

As we embrace 2024, I extend warm greetings and hope the year unfolds successfully for all. Building on 2023's successes, January has unfolded with a series of events that have set the tone for a transformative, actionable year in the realms of sustainability. These early endeavours foreshadow the instrumental role that all stakeholders will play in shaping a sustainable future for our nation. Let me shed some light on EEG's January activities, where we've passionately expanded our reach, fostering inclusivity of all sectors of society as we work towards a common mission of establishing a sustainable environment.

In January, EEG actively participated in six UNEP events, contributing valuable insights to global environmental discussions. The team attended crucial meetings, including the 164<sup>th</sup> and 165<sup>th</sup> Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee Meeting to the UNEP. Additionally, EEG engaged in a capacity-building workshop on stakeholder engagement and gained insights into UNEP's Resolution Portal at a dedicated information session. The month concluded with an acknowledgment of facilitators for informal consultations leading up to UNEA-6. For detailed information on each event, please refer to the EEG's Active Involvement with UNEP section.

On **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, I was honoured to be a speaker at the Qatar Media Symposium, addressing "The Role of Environmental Media in Sustainable Development." Here, I shared insights on environmental awareness and the importance of promoting sustainability far and wide.

As the Co-founder, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, and Treasurer of Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC), I played a pivotal role in two key events in January. I virtually attended the 1<sup>st</sup> MC Meeting on **January 10**, contributing to discussions on focus areas, budget, and strategies. Additionally, on **January 19**, I participated in a collaborative workshop within the EmiratesGBC Women's Network, engaging in discussions on expectations and sharing insights in a Fireside Chat to empower and shape the network's vision.

Recognising the importance of spreading the message of sustainable development across diverse platforms, I was invited to share insights on "The Road to Sustainability Podcast" by ARAMEX on **January 16**. Here, I discussed the challenges and successes of integrating green building principles into organisational frameworks.

Partnerships and collaboration play a pivotal role in advancing the sustainability mission as emphasised by UN SDG #17. Thus, I am pleased to announce that on **January 18<sup>th</sup>**, EEG joined forces with Panasonic in the 'For Our Emirates We Plant' initiative. This on-going partnership exemplifies our dedication to fostering positive climate action in the private sector. As the environmental partner of the Arabia CSR Network, EEG proudly participated in the launch of the 17<sup>th</sup> cycle of the 'Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards' at Atlantis Palm Jumeirah on **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. In my capacity as President & CEO of Arabia CSR Network, I unveiled the Awards' transformation, highlighting its 20-year journey and the addition of the Education Sector category. This expansion reflects the commitment to holistic sustainability practices in the Arab world.

Celebrating a community triumph on **January 24<sup>th</sup>**, EEG, in collaboration with Dubai Municipality, organised a large-scale tree-planting initiative under the banner "For Our Emirates We Plant." **1,308** saplings of native trees were planted. These trees are projected to absorb **7.71** MT of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions upon maturity in 3-5 years. Since the inception of the program in 2007, EEG has successfully planted **2,126,912** indigenous trees, contributing significantly to the reduction of approximately **12,541.76** MT of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually.

In a milestone event on **January 29**, EEG hosted its first panel discussion of the year, focusing on "Climate Fund Transparency: Outlining Implementation & Execution". At this event, I highlighted the critical role of transparency in climate finance for effective global sustainability. Collaborating with key partners, the panel delved into the concept, challenges, tools, and case studies available in transparently allocating funds for impactful climate action.

From **29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January**, EEG actively participated in the World Environmental Education Congress, showcasing our impactful education programs and engaging with global leaders. This event underscored our commitment to environmental education, empowering youth, and fostering sustainable development worldwide.

I also had the honour of attending the launch of the "Zero Government Bureaucracy" program by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, on **January 30<sup>th</sup>**, supporting streamlined government processes and enhanced efficiency. The initiative aims to eliminate redundant procedures and requirements, with a commitment to cancelling 2,000 government measures by 2024, fostering transparency in operations. These initiatives align with EEG's mission for a more progressive future.

In a momentous gathering on **January 30<sup>th</sup>**, I led the 30<sup>th</sup> EEG Board Meeting, celebrating our triumphs in 2023 and charting an ambitious course for 2024. Gratitude was extended to members, partners, and volunteers for their pivotal roles in EEG's success. I unveiled the 2024 budget, showcasing a commitment to expanding impact through innovative initiatives.

In addition to participating in events throughout the UAE, I proactively engaged with the media. This included a TV interview on Abu Dhabi TV's "Sabah Al Emarat" program on **2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**, highlighting EEG's achievements in 2023. Post the Qatar Media Symposium event, on **25<sup>th</sup> January**; I was interviewed by Qatar Radio to provide my thoughts and opinions on the importance of media role and such events. Another significant interview took place on **29<sup>th</sup> January** with Al Khaleej, where I passionately discussed the importance of climate finance transparency after our panel discussion.

As we navigate the intricate web of challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, the Emirates Environmental Group remains steadfast in its mission to cultivate a culture of environmental responsibility. The unfolding chapters of January mark the beginning of an exciting narrative, where collective action and shared responsibility will pave the way for an impactful 2024 and a greener, more sustainable tomorrow.





## 2<sup>nd</sup> January A Glimpse into EEG's Achievements with Abu Dhabi TV Interview

In an engaging interview on Abu Dhabi TV's "Sabah Al Emarat" programme held on **2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**, EEG Chairperson, highlighted the organisation's environmental achievements in 2023, most notably the successful Clean UAE campaign which engaged **68,017** members of the community. The insightful conversation showcased EEG's vision and the importance for a cleaner UAE. The interview featured a special highlight reel film of the event, shot by EEG's creative team, offering viewers a first-hand look at the initiatives towards a cleaner and greener nation. She eloquently shared the organisation's impact with the Clean UAE event which spanned the **7** Emirates and covered a total area of **36.5** km<sup>2</sup> from **December 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>**.

The campaign amassed a substantial collection of **36,900** kg of waste, showcasing a collective commitment to a pristine environment. This TV feature celebrated EEG's accomplishments and also served as a call to action, inviting individuals to join in creating a more environmentally conscious community.

## 8<sup>th</sup> January EEG's Insights at Qatar Symposium

In a symposium, held on **8<sup>th</sup> January**, on "The Role of Environmental Media in Sustainable Development" in Qatar, organised by the Qatar Media Corporation and under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Thani Al Thani, EEG chairperson shared transformative insights on environmental awareness and the importance of media platforms. The event was held in cooperation with Gulf Radio and Television affiliated with the general secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Expo 2023 committee in Doha. It attracted a diverse audience committed to sustainable development. Against the backdrop of COP28's success, the symposium emphasised the UAE's leadership in climate action and the outcomes of the historic event.



Acknowledging media's pivotal role in shaping perceptions, the chairperson highlighted challenges such as public disinterest and competition for space with Major News. Despite obstacles, EEG has been a trailblazer, sharing impactful initiatives at the symposium. From urban afforestation to waste management, EEG's 2023 achievements included educational programmes reaching **408,308+** students and collecting **1,611,226** kg of waste. The successful "For Our Emirates We Plant" programme has mitigated **12,534.05** metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The symposium served as a call to action to inspire for a greener future. Post the event and on **25<sup>th</sup> January**, EEG Chairperson was interviewed by Qatar Radio to provide her thoughts and opinions on the importance of such events.

## 10<sup>th</sup> January EmiratesGBC 1<sup>st</sup> MC Meeting 2024

EEG Chairperson, in her capacity as the Co-Founder, Vice Chair and Board Treasurer of Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) attended virtually the 1<sup>st</sup> MC Meeting of 2024 on **10<sup>th</sup> January**.

The agenda of the meeting covered the welcoming and introduction of new MC members by the chair, detailed discussions ensued including the way forward, the areas of focus, council budget for the year 2024 and concluded with a showcase on optimising businesses in effective partnerships.

## 10<sup>th</sup> January Participating in the LAB meeting of Our Own High School Al Warqa'a

EEG Chairperson attended Our Own High School Al Warqa'a's 2<sup>nd</sup> LAB meeting on **January 10, 2024**, showcasing her commitment to the school's continuous improvement journey aligned with DSIB recommendations.

The agenda promises insightful discussions, including introductions of new LAB members, WoW moments shared by students, future directions presented and collaborative inputs for the upcoming academic year with the leadership team. This active involvement signifies EEG's dedication to enhancing our learning community and empowering the youth. We look forward to collaborative efforts for a successful academic year.

## 16<sup>th</sup> January Insights from ARAMEX's Podcast

In the latest episode of "The Road to Sustainability" Podcast by ARAMEX on held on **16<sup>th</sup> January**, EEG Chairperson shifted focus to the challenges and environmental, economic and social triumphs of incorporating green building principles into organisational frameworks. The podcast explored how such initiatives contribute to overall organisational health, emphasising the need for a balance between numerical targets and quality coordination systems. She shared a compelling journey, from the evolution of green building concepts locally, notably through the establishment of Emirates Green Building Council, to the establishment of green building standards and codes within each emirate. The episode shed light on the critical role of green buildings in fostering sustainable cities and its roll in reducing the carbon footprint of the built environment, touching on internationally recognised standards, challenges, and the future landscape and how it can set the example for sustainable cities and communities.



## 18<sup>th</sup> January EEG & Panasonic Tree Planting Collaboration

In an on-going commitment to fostering positive climate action in the private sector, EEG is delighted to announce a new collaboration with Panasonic in the 'For Our Emirates We Plant,' that took place on **18<sup>th</sup> January**. EEG chairperson was hosted at a meet-and-greet event at JA - The Resort, Jebel Ali, Dubai, where the partnership between EEG and Panasonic was celebrated. This event marks the beginning of a shared journey towards a more sustainable future. Through initiatives like 'For Our Emirates We Plant,' EEG continues to drive impactful change, encouraging environmental stewardship and active participation in the collective effort to combat climate change. The collaborative effort aims to contribute to environmental sustainability and underscores our dedication to creating a greener future for the Emirates.



## 19<sup>th</sup> Empower-her: Collaborative Workshop for Expectations at EmiratesGBC Women's Network

The Women's Network at Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) took the lead on **January 19**, to organise a collaborative workshop aimed at articulating their expectations from the organisation. During this dynamic session, members engaged in expressive exercises, sharing individual thoughts that were later collectively categorised into key themes. These visual representations became the focal point for lively group discussions, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of specific needs and preferences. A special highlight was the Fireside Chat, featuring Farah Yassine, Senior Manager – Sustainability at PwC and Chairwoman of the Emirates GBC Women's Network, in conversation with Ms. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, in her capacity as the Co-Founder, Vice-Chair and Treasurer of EmiratesGBC. The fireside chat provided attendees with her valuable insights into the aim and vision of establishing the Women's Network, adding depth to the collective empowerment journey. This interactive session concluded with a reflection period, enabling the Women's Network to distil their insights into a collective action plan, ensuring that their expectations are translated into tangible, empowering initiatives.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Press Launch for the 17<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the "Arabia CSR Awards"

EEG joined the Arabia CSR Network as the environmental partner in proudly launching the 17<sup>th</sup> cycle of the renowned 'Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards.' At the press launch held at Atlantis Palm Jumeirah on **22<sup>nd</sup> January**, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, the Founder, President & CEO of Arabia CSR Network, delivered a compelling opening address. She unveiled the Awards' transformation, emphasising sustainability beyond traditional corporate social responsibility (CSR), leading to the rebranding as the 'Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards.'

She highlighted pivotal milestones, with the awards famously referred to as the 'Green Oscars' of the Middle East. The fact that the Arabia CSR Network is celebrating the conclusion of 20 years of operation adds significance to this edition. The awards, known for driving corporate giants towards impactful CSR initiatives, now boasts 16 categories. The categories include Public Sector Category; with Small, Medium and Large Organisations, New Business Category, The Business Sector which also has 3 categories; Large, Medium & Small and industry-specific sectors such as Energy, Financial Services, Social Enterprise, Construction, Hospitality, Healthcare, Automotive Industry, Partnerships & Collaborations, and the newly added Education Sector. This addition reflects the critical role educational institutions play in shaping sustainable practices, building capacity and fostering a culture of responsibility in the educational sector.

Sharing her vision, she stressed on the holistic integration of sustainability practices, and the inclusion of the Education Sector category aligns with the broader commitment to advancing responsible corporate and sustainable practices in the Arab world. All entities within the Arab world are encouraged to apply for the 17<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards, showcasing their dedication to sustainability. For inquiries about the registration process, reach out to [admin@arabiacsnetwork.com](mailto:admin@arabiacsnetwork.com).



## 24<sup>th</sup> For Our Emirates We Plant

In the continuous effort to promote environmental conservation, EEG made a positive contribution by organising a large-scale tree-planting initiative on **24<sup>th</sup> January** in Hatta in collaboration with Dubai Municipality. This event was held under the banner "For Our Emirates We Plant", which aims to promote ecological sustainability nationally and regionally with far reaching global impact.

The initiative saw a massive turnout of volunteers from the Atlantis Atlas Project, Med-supply, Liv Digital Bank and the support of Panasonic who all joined forces with EEG to plant **1,308** saplings of native trees. These trees will play an extraordinary role in absorbing **7.71** MT of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions upon maturity in 3-5 years.

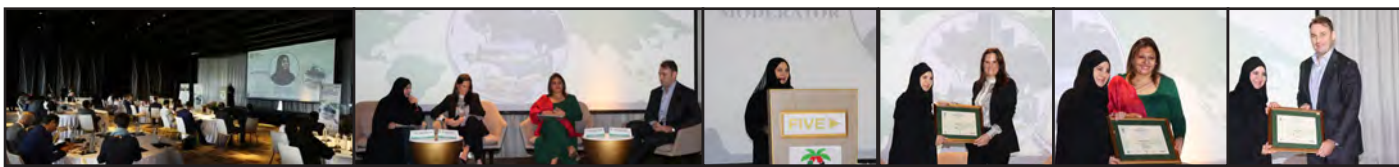
Since the inception of the "For Our Emirates We Plant" programme in 2007, EEG has successfully planted **2,126,912** indigenous trees in the region, making a significant impact on reducing carbon emissions. These trees mitigate annually approximately **12,541.76** MT of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the atmosphere.





## 29<sup>th</sup> January 1<sup>st</sup> Panel Discussion: “Climate Fund Transparency: Outlining Implementation & Execution.”

EEG achieved a significant milestone with its inaugural panel discussion of 2024, themed “Climate Fund Transparency: Outlining Implementation & Execution.” Held on **January 29, 2024**, at Five Palm Jumeirah, the event, in collaboration with key partners, addressed the challenges of transparently allocating funds for impactful climate action. EEG’s Chairperson emphasised the critical role of transparency in climate finance for effective global sustainability. Expert speakers, including Ms. Jessica Robinson (EY-Parthenon), Ms. Sameera Fernandes (Century Financial), and Mr. Jonathan Keyes (HSBC), shared insights on evolving climate finance trends, innovative tools, and the integration of climate finance into business strategies. The interactive session fostered meaningful discussions, aligning with EEG’s commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goals. EEG extends gratitude to all participants for their engaged contributions to shaping a sustainable future.



## 29<sup>th</sup> January Advocating for Climate Finance Transparency in Zahrat Al Khaleej

In an illuminating interview with Zahrat Al Khaleej Magazine on **29<sup>th</sup> January** after the conclusion of EEG’s 1<sup>st</sup> Panel discussion, EEG chairperson passionately discussed the pressing need for climate finance transparency. Highlighting the significance of concrete steps to improve transparency, she underscored that transparency is not just a formality but an essential tool to address critical issues hindering the effective flow of funds. She called for the active participation of climate finance providers from both public and private sectors in this crucial dialogue, accentuating that sharing ideas and experiences can shape a more sustainable and responsible climate future. The interview touched upon the challenges and explored implementable solutions to efficiently utilise the committed financial resources of \$85 billion for impactful climate action.

## 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> EEG at the World Environment Education Congress 2024

EEG actively participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) from **January 29- February 1, 2024**, held at ADNEC in Abu Dhabi. WEEC, a renowned international congress, serves as a platform for global discussions on education for the environment and sustainable development. Over the four-day event, EEG, stall witnessed a very healthy flow of visitors and was able to showcase its diverse education programmes, engaging with industry leaders, government officials, and professionals from various educational sectors. The congress, held every two years in different parts of the world, fosters knowledge exchange and collaboration among participants representing academia, government, NGOs, and businesses. EEG’s presence at WEEC reflects its commitment to environmental education, empowering the youth to achieve sustainable development on a national, regional as well as global scale.

## 30<sup>th</sup> January Launch of 'Zero Government Bureaucracy' Programme

EEG Chairperson was honoured to attend the official launch event of the "Zero Government Bureaucracy" (ZGB) programme organised by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs on **30<sup>th</sup> January** at the Emirates Towers, Godolphin ballroom in Dubai. The ZGB programme, aimed at streamlining government processes, was presented during the event. This event focused on eliminating redundant procedures and requirements, simplifying administrative processes. Ministries and government entities are actively working to implement the programme’s directives, with a commitment to cancelling a minimum of 2,000 government measures, reducing the time required for procedures, and eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy by the end of 2024. The event marks a significant step towards enhancing efficiency and transparency in government operations.

## Educational News

### GEMS Modern Academy’s Visit to EEG

On **January 4<sup>th</sup>**, EEG welcomed a total of 93 Grade 4 students in 3 batches, accompanied by 6 teachers and 3 assistants from GEMS Modern Academy School, embarked on an enriching educational journey at its office. The visit was designed to cultivate environmental awareness and education among them. EEG conducted a comprehensive session that included an enlightening presentation on its societal role, objectives, organisational structure, and the diverse programmes available for schools to engage their students in. Each batch comprised of 30 individuals who were given the opportunity to research into environmental best practices. Following the presentations, they were guided through the recycling facilities available at the office, gaining insights into the storage and segregation processes of 9 recyclable materials. The visit left the students inspired and eager to actively participate in EEG’s initiatives, contributing to their heightened awareness of various environmental issues.



### Dubai National School for Girls Meeting

On **25<sup>th</sup> January**, 3 senior students from our active academic member the Dubai National School for Girls visited Emirates Environmental Group office to meet with the Chairperson Ms. Habiba Almar’ashi. The purpose of the visit was to discuss their proposal connected with developing an application for the students to enable them to engage more effectively in different environmental fields. It was a fruitful meeting and Ms. Habiba discussed how EEG can help guide these students to a sustainable path and how to develop their application and promote it. She assured them of her full support in their innovative journey.



## Chinese Delegate Workshop

On **31<sup>st</sup> January**, EEG hosted 27 student delegates from various international schools in China, facilitated by Wild Woods Tourism LLC. This curated visit aimed to elucidate EEG's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable practices. The programme included a series of activities including a presentation and a workshop on climate actions, fostering engaging discussions with environmental professionals. By imparting crucial insights, EEG strives to nurture a generation of environmentally conscious leaders equipped to advocate for sustainability globally. EEG's steadfast belief underscores the significance of instilling environmental awareness to empower future leaders dedicated to preserving our natural resources through sustainable principles and practices.



## Ongoing Events

### One Root, One Communi-tree Phase 1

EEG has kicked off the 14<sup>th</sup> cycle of its unique recycling campaign, the **“One Root One Communi-Tree” (OROC)**, with phase one of the campaigns set from **January 24<sup>th</sup> - May 24<sup>th</sup>**. Huge deposits of different recyclable materials have started pouring in at the EEG office from individuals, schools and private & government sector entities. Now is the time to act! So start collecting and recycling with us. We are accepting **Paper, Plastic, Glass, Aluminium Cans, E-waste, Toner cartridges and Mobile phones** under this campaign. Upon achieving every set of pre-determined targets for the categories, the participants stand a chance to secure one native tree to be planted under their names by the end of the year as part of the ‘For Our Emirates We Plant’ campaign. To help reduce landfill space and increase carbon sinks within UAE, register for the campaign through the link [CLICK HERE](#)



### Art from Waste 2024

Art from Waste 2024, has evolved from a side event at the Emirates Recycling Awards into a powerful standalone competition, reborn to emphasise the core principles of the circular economy. Launched on 24th January 2024, this initiative casts a spotlight on the vital concept of reusing resources. In response to the surging importance of upcycling, EEG has revamped the event to accentuate the 'reuse' element in the 3R concept. The competition now serves as a platform for students to showcase innovations that are not only artistically impressive but also resilient, feasible, and scalable in a school environment. With an eye on commercial viability, this dynamic competition encourages students to challenge consumerism and disposal practices, while instilling environmental responsibility and redefining waste as a valuable resource. Turn waste into art and be a part of a purpose-driven mission fostering innovation, critical thinking, and resourcefulness for a sustainable future! Join us on this impactful journey by registering at [CLICK HERE](#)



### Re-New Our World – Student Water Innovation Challenge

EEG has started the year by rolling out the newly adopted project, the 4th edition of the "Re-New Our World" a student water innovation challenge. This challenge is a unique student-centric project, where we give the opportunity for the students in the country to advance their critical thinking and innovation skills. Through this challenge, the students are able to hone their climate conscious behaviour by tackling major issues that we face today across the globe related to water.

The RE-NEW Our World Water Challenge is targeted to students between the ages of 8-18, who are determined and skilled to address global challenges and find practical solutions to unprecedented threats related to water. The challenge calls on students to develop an innovative solution for rising water challenges whether it is for conservation, or access or finding more sustainable methods of utilising drinking water or alternative solutions to using water. The winning senior student project will then represent the UAE at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP), the most prestigious international competition conducted under the patronage of HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden. Registrations have begun, so don't miss out the opportunity to nurture your commitment, get recognition and represent UAE at an International level. Follow the link to register now [CLICK HERE](#)



### 19<sup>th</sup> Environmental Drawing Competition

Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) was proud to roll out the 19<sup>th</sup> cycle of its "Environmental Drawing Competition," on **January 4<sup>th</sup>**. This annual competition invites student artists from various age groups in schools nationwide to contribute to a global conversation about our relationship with the environment. Through the universal language of art, participating students become advocates for sustainable coexistence with the planet. As vibrant strokes and creative expressions come together, these young minds transform into ambassadors of environmental consciousness, showcasing both their artistic talents and commitment to a harmonious future. The topics chosen are:

A Breath of Purity	Wheel of Tomorrow	Wasteless Wonders
Age 6 – 8	Age 9 – 11	Age 12 – 14

For registration, please follow the link: [CLICK HERE](#)



## Can Collection Campaign 2024

The 1<sup>st</sup> nationwide campaign that EEG rolled out was the ‘Can Collection Campaign’ in 1997. This campaign was massively popular then, and it continues to draw large crowds representing different sectors of the industry and members of the society. The awaited ‘Can Collection Day’ is scheduled to be held on the memorable date of **24.2.24**.

In 2023, EEG successfully reached and crossed its target of collecting **27,500** kg. It actually managed to collect **28,900** kg of Aluminium Cans. This year, the aim is to bring together more entities into the sustainability loop and with the help of the wider society, an ambitious target in set of achieving 10% more. With UAE turning heads around the world as a leading environmental conscious country, let’s work together to spread awareness and best practices of recycling and adopting circular economy. We once again call on the support of our committed supporters and participants to help us reach our goal! Every single entity’s contribution will definitely help to reduce the volume of Aluminium Cans going to landfills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help achieve all climate goals set out by United Nations and governments across the globe. COP28 outcomes have imperatively stated that we need to take the steps for change immediately. Join us on the Can Collection Day to recycle aluminium cans and make a difference in this world. Register for the campaign through the link [CLICK HERE](#)



## Launching the 24<sup>th</sup> cycle of the ISEPSC

EEG proudly rolled out the 24<sup>th</sup> cycle of the “Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition” on **10<sup>th</sup> January** and extended an invitation to all schools in the UAE to register and participate. This competition serves as a dynamic platform, cultivating awareness, honing communication skills, and fostering advocacy for critical environmental issues. Covering diverse sustainability topics revolving around climate change, conservation of resources, protection of biodiversity, changing of social behaviour and the adoption of sustainable practices. The participants gain profound insights into interconnected challenges while developing essential public speaking proficiency to communicate their messages effectively and efficiently. The scheduled competition dates are **April 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2024**.

These competitions play a crucial role in shaping a generation of knowledgeable and empowered environmental advocates. Armed with well-researched data and evidence-based approaches, the students are dedicated to their mission of protecting our planet through effective communication and strategic guidance.

Sub-Senior	Greenovation: Envisioning Cities of Tomorrow Pending Eco-Excursions: Conservation & Sustainable Tourism.
Senior	Harmonised Communities: Leading Climate Conscious Society? Benevolence of Oceans: Comprehending Planetary Security



Kindly register via the link: [CLICK HERE](#) to share your opinion because your voice matters.

## UN News

### EEG’s Active Involvement with UNEP in January

#### January 11<sup>th</sup> - Key Highlights from UNEA’s Draft Resolutions

EEG Team virtually attended a meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee held on **11<sup>th</sup> January** in Nairobi; crucial discussions took place on UNEA draft resolutions addressing global environmental challenges. The meeting covered diverse topics and policy improvements such as highly hazardous pesticides, sand & dust storms, water policies, land degradation, nature-based solutions, cascade systems, air quality and more.

Delegations raised insightful questions and suggestions, emphasising integration, budget implications and alignment with existing frameworks. The resolutions, presented by various nations, showcased a commitment to collaborative global efforts. The meeting concluded with an invitation for further consultations on the draft ministerial declaration, a reminder about the co-sponsorship process and upcoming speaker lists for national statements at UNEA-6.

#### January 17<sup>th</sup> - Navigating Stakeholder Engagement Dynamics in Pre-UNEA

EEG immersed itself in the intricacies of stakeholder engagement at a preparatory capacity building workshop hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on **17<sup>th</sup> January**, the world’s highest decision-making body on environmental matters. In collaboration with the Major Group and

Stakeholder Facilitating Committee (MGFC), the workshop aimed to enhance our understanding of the Major Group modality within UNEP, a key element in shaping global environmental policies. Discussions centred on effective coordination strategies for Major Groups in the lead-up to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6). As fervent advocates for environmental sustainability, this event provided an opportunity to increase our understanding of stakeholder engagement possibilities in UNEP and to develop a joint approach to Major Group coordination towards UNEA-6. EEG’s active participation in global forums reinforces our commitment to contributing insights and experiences to the international dialogue on pressing environmental concerns.

#### January 18<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> - CPR Subcommittee Meeting for UNEA-6 Drafts

EEG Team virtually attended two meetings for the Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee Meeting on **18<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> January**, where the UNEA-6 draft resolutions witnessed substantive discussions. A variety of draft resolutions were presented, reflecting the global commitment to addressing critical environmental issues. Highlights included Switzerland’s proposal on the sound management of chemicals and waste, with queries focusing on UNEA-6’s role and operational details. Concerns and suggestions arose regarding the draft resolution on solar radiation modification, emphasising the need for scientific assessments and social expertise. Costa Rica’s initiative on strengthening ocean governance





prompted questions about terminology and UNEP’s strategic role. Other topics covered included environmental assistance in conflict areas, minerals and metals, circular economy, sustainable lifestyles and more. The meeting concluded with discussions on procedural matters, including the provisional agenda, date, and venue for the seventh session, trust fund management, and preparations for the high-level segment.

**January 25<sup>th</sup> - 164<sup>th</sup> & 165<sup>th</sup> Meet of the CPR to the UNEP**

Emirates Environmental Group virtually attended the 164<sup>th</sup> & 165<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) conducted on **25<sup>th</sup> January** in Nairobi, Kenya. CPR prepares the meetings of the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP and regularly reviews the implementation of its decisions.

The agenda included the adoption of the provisional agenda and draft minutes, as well as the consideration of the Chair’s Summary of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee meeting. The Executive Director presented a Quarterly Report, covering **July to September 2023**, and discussions focused on relevant evaluation reports and audits. Additionally, preparations for the upcoming United Nations Environment Assembly session and a report from the subcommittee were addressed.

**January 25<sup>th</sup> - UNEA-6: Facilitators Announced for Crucial Draft Resolutions and Decisions**

The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the Committee of Permanent Representatives have jointly revealed the appointment of 7 facilitators for informal


consultations on draft resolutions and decisions leading up to UNEA-6 on **26<sup>th</sup> February**. H.E. Leina Benali, President of UNEA, and H.E. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, announced the facilitators in a collaborative letter. The appointed facilitators, including delegates from Canada, Chile, India, Japan, Kenya, Sweden, and the United Republic of Tanzania, will play an important role in steering the consultation and negotiation processes.

The remaining 3 facilitators will be disclosed in due course. The joint effort emphasises transparency and inclusivity in the preparatory stages for UNEA-6, fostering cooperation among member states and stakeholders.

**January 26<sup>th</sup> - UNEP’s Resolution Portal Information Session for Environmental Policies**

EEG participated in the UNEP event held on **26<sup>th</sup> January**, focusing on UNEP’s Resolution Portal, which provided valuable insights into enhancing our role in shaping environmental policies. With a dedicated session led by the UNEP team, EEG gained a deeper understanding of the portal’s functionalities.

As advocates for sustainable practices, EEG is poised to actively engage with UNEA-6 preparations. Our presence at the event aligns with our mission to contribute meaningfully to environmental discussions and collaborate with diverse stakeholders. We look forward to leveraging this knowledge to drive positive change and promote sustainable development.



### Saudi Arabia to host largest-ever UN COP16 conference on land and drought

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have inked an agreement to organise the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Convention’s Conference of the Parties (COP16) in Riyadh from **2-13 December 2024**. Representing the largest-ever UNCCD meeting with UNCCD’s 197 parties, the Riyadh COP16 aims to address global land degradation, drought emergencies, and sustainable land management. As the 1st biodiversity COP in the Middle East, hosted by Saudi Arabia as their largest multilateral conference, the event coincides with the UNCCD’s 30th anniversary. With 40% of the world’s land degraded and droughts intensifying, the conference seeks global collaboration to restore 1.5 billion hectares of land by 2030. The Riyadh COP16 will focus on mobilising governments, businesses, Civil Society organisations and communities worldwide to accelerate action on land restoration and drought resilience as a cornerstone of food, water and energy security.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## EEG MEMBERS’ UPDATE

EEG welcomed 9 new student members, 9 renewed student members, 1 new academic member and 1 renewed academic member in the month of January 2024

Student Membership			
Aarav Goyal	New	Abigail Ann Thomas	Renewal
Armaan Varkey	New	Natalya Mariah Santosh	Renewal
Leah Varkey	New	Nia Treeza Tony	Renewal
Mireya Guliani	New	Preet Pannu	Renewal
Saleha Akif	New	Rose Vincent	Renewal
Shaddha Varma	New	Vaishnavi Cadaba	Renewal
Shree Namay Behl	New	Vansh Parpia	Renewal
Zubair Akif	New	Vedant Choudhary	Renewal
Mayeshha Modi	New	Keerthi Nepoleon	Renewal
Academic Membership			
St. Mary’s Catholic High School, Muhaisnah	New	Our Own High School Al Warqaa	Renewal





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

- » Reduction of 269 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) GHG
- » Saving of 2,146 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 639 m<sup>3</sup> of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 1,330 Trees from being felled
- » Saving of 1,266 Gallons of Gasoline



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
During January 2024, EEG successfully collected <b>61,270</b> kg of Paper from <b>184</b> participating entities. While January saw a <b>24%</b> decrease in paper collection compared to the previous month, attributed to the absence of specific campaigns, we encourage the community to gear up for upcoming initiatives as we progress through the year.	The Indian High School Dubai Garhoud	1,980	Sultan Ali Al Zaabi	1,171
	Delhi Private School Sharjah	1,920	Nia Treeza Tony	1,160
	The Indian High School Dubai Oud Metha	1,190	Sarah Javed	495
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
In January 2024, EEG collected <b>880</b> kg of Aluminum Cans from <b>20</b> participating entities, showing a <b>14%</b> decrease from December 2023. Looking ahead, we're excited to announce our upcoming Can Collection Day on <b>February 24<sup>th</sup></b> . We encourage everyone to participate actively, contributing to a substantial increase in numbers and making a positive impact on our recycling efforts.	Far Eastern Private School Halwan	65	-	-
	American School of Dubai, Barsha	25		
	-	-		
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG successfully gathered <b>9,443</b> kg of plastic from <b>115</b> participating entities, marking a <b>13%</b> decrease from the previous month. While the start of the year may have been quieter, we're energized and calling on the community to join us in building momentum.	Our Own High School, Dubai	399	Ali Darwish Mubarak Salim Al Zaabi	224
	Al Ghab School for Basic Education Cycle 2 for Girls 9067	270	Hassan Abdullah Hassan	90
	Sultan Bin Zayed School Al Ain	260	Eesha Chhibber	80
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
In January 2024, EEG gathered <b>122</b> toner cartridges from <b>13</b> participating entities, showing a notable <b>79%</b> decrease from the previous month. However, let's highlight the positive side – a remarkable <b>+40%</b> difference from January 2023! Let's channel this momentum into the upcoming months, aiming for even greater sustainability achievements together!	Al Itqan School 1, 2, & 3 Cycle Girls	9	Jovita Bhunik	60
	-	-	-	-
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
In January 2024, EEG collected <b>351</b> mobile phones from <b>6</b> participating entities, marking a <b>61%</b> decrease from the previous month. However, let's celebrate the bigger picture – an impressive <b>1070%</b> increase as compared to January 2023! Despite the slight dip in the past month, the substantial growth from last year's January demonstrates the expanding impact of our community's commitment to sustainable practices. As we move forward, let's build on this progress and strive for even greater environmental achievements together!	-	-	Amal Saeed Al Shamsi	47
	-	-	-	-
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
In January 2024, EEG accomplished the collection of <b>9,026</b> kg of glass bottles from <b>49</b> participating entities. While we experienced a <b>26%</b> decrease from the previous month, we see this as an opportunity to rally the community for a stronger February. Let's kickstart the momentum and work together to increase these numbers, ensuring a positive trend throughout the year. Your participation makes a significant impact on our environmental goals.	American University of Sharjah	20	Sonia Gandhi	302
	Al Itqan School 1, 2, & 3 Cycle Girls	15	Mubarak Al Zaabi & Mariah Al Zaabi (Tie)	166
	American School of Dubai Al Barsha	10	Samarth Kumar	100
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
In January 2024, EEG effectively gathered <b>222</b> kg of e-waste from <b>16</b> participating entities, despite a <b>67%</b> decrease from the previous month. Now, we call on our community to rise to the challenge in February. Let's reverse this trend and propel our e-waste collection to new heights. Your discarded electronics can contribute to a sustainable future. Join us in taking action this February, ensuring a positive shift in our e-waste collection efforts.	Far Eastern Private School Halwan	73	Jameela Ali Al Zaabi	45
	-	-	Vidyuth Balaji	40
	-	-	Natalya Mariah Santhosh	21
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
In January 2024, EEG collected <b>350</b> kg of scrap metal from <b>20</b> participating entities, marking a <b>70%</b> decrease from the previous month. It's time to turn the tide! Join us in February and let's forge a new path for scrap metal collection. Your discarded metal items can find a new purpose. Be part of the circularity change – kickstart the month by recycling your scrap metal responsibly.	-	-	Fateem Ali Al Zaabi	162
	-	-	-	-

EEG urges all its members & participating entities to maximise their contributions to achieve the set targets of the above campaigns and excel in collections for societal welfare. Together we are spearheading a transformative effort to make tangible impact for a sustainable future.

