

# EEG EDU NEWS

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



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة  
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



March 2024  
Issue 3



EEG  
مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة  
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

24  
FEB  
2024

COLLECT  
CRUSH  
DEPOSIT

SCAN TO REGISTER

WITH A #CAN DO ATTITUDE THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

CAN COLLECTION DAY

SAY YES TO RECYCLING  
NO TO CARBON EMISSION

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## Upcoming Events

## Click on the issue

Organized by EEG

Environmental Drawing Competition

2024

4<sup>th</sup> January

For Registration

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INTER SCHOOL

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

SHARE YOUR OPINION

24<sup>th</sup> Cycle

Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition

22 - 25 APRIL 2024

Sub-Senior

22 April  
Environmentalism: Envisioning Cities of Tomorrow

Senior

24 April  
Harmonised Communities: Leading Climate Conscious Society?

23 April  
Pursuing Eco-Excursions: Conservation & Sustainable Tourism

25 April  
Conscience of Citizens: Comprehending Planetary Security

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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



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## Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear readers! Hope you are enjoying the rain and the cool weather that we are experiencing in the UAE currently.

At the Emirates Environmental Group, come rain or shine, we are out there working with schools, businesses and governments to raise awareness and engage about the environment through various platforms.

On the educational front, we launched several educational programmes at the beginning of the year and the office is busy interacting with educational institutions; answering queries and receiving registrations.

I was honoured to attend the Young Voices of Arabia book launch on **4<sup>th</sup> February**, celebrating UN Sustainable Development Goals and children's rights. Hosted by Her Highness Sheikha Hissa, the event highlighted youth-written stories, underscoring our commitment to youth empowerment and sustainability.

I had the pleasure of joining on the **8<sup>th</sup> Ajman's** webinar on education and lifelong learning, contributing to the dialogue on environmental literacy and sustainable development goals. This engagement underscores our shared commitment to nurturing a culture of continuous learning and environmental stewardship, reflecting EEG's mission to integrate environmental education across all societal sectors.

We actively participated in several of UNEP's CPR Subcommittee meetings throughout the month, focusing on draft resolutions across various environmental issues leading up to UNEA-6. These sessions, emphasized international collaboration and tackled pollution abatement, biodiversity loss, and the circular economy. Our participation reinforced our commitment to global environmental governance and sustainable future preparations.

We participated in the UN's Inter-Agency Task Force briefing on global economic context for sustainable development financing on **6<sup>th</sup> February**. This virtual session, featuring experts from the World Bank, IMF, and UNCTAD, highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts to tackle global economic challenges for sustainable development.

The month witnessed our participation in a session aimed at formulating a treaty to eradicate plastic pollution. This virtual engagement that took place on the **7<sup>th</sup>** was co-hosted by the TESS and Geneva Environment Network, it focused on mobilising resources for the treaty's effective implementation, marking a significant step towards achieving a plastic-free future.

As a founding member, Vice Chair and Treasurer of Emirates Green Building Council, I joined on the **16<sup>th</sup>** the monthly networking meeting of the council in Dubai, discussions centered on the council's progress, investment

opportunities, and strategies for development. This gathering ensures that the council's leadership, employees, and members are aligned and informed about the ongoing and future initiatives for sustainable building practices.

EEG held the 'Can Collection Day' in 6 locations across the UAE on **24.2.24** and we concluded the day with the collection of 7,002 kg of Aluminium Cans. The campaign received good media support, as I was interviewed on Dubai TV and Radio 4 & Channel 104.8. These engagements highlighted the campaign's objectives and the critical role of community participation in recycling efforts, emphasizing the collective action towards environmental sustainability in the UAE.

I proudly joined on the **26<sup>th</sup>** the celebrations of agricultural innovation at the 16<sup>th</sup> Khalifa International Date Palm Agricultural and Innovation Awards, emphasizing the role of date palm cultivation in sustainable development. This global recognition aligns with EEG's commitment to environmental sustainability and underscores the UAE's leadership in fostering global partnerships for agricultural advancement.

EEG participated in the **6<sup>th</sup>** session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from **26<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March**. The UNEA focused on addressing the triple planetary crisis - climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste - the assembly fostered multilateral efforts and showcased the unity of various sectors towards a sustainable future.

EEG, in partnership with Rainbow, concluded the series of "Tin Recycling Workshops" across 7 schools, engaging 1,807 students and teachers. These sessions, started in September 2023 and concluded on 20th February this year.

As you can see, we have been very busy trying to keep the sustainability momentum alive in the UAE, and we have lots planned for you. As always, learn more about our programmes via [www.eeg-uae.org](http://www.eeg-uae.org) or stay in touch with us at [eeg@emirates.net.ae](mailto:eeg@emirates.net.ae)

As for our upcoming programmes, we have our prestigious gala dinner on **5<sup>th</sup> March**; we will roll out our "Paper-Walk" Project on Earth Hour day, **23<sup>rd</sup> March**. This Project encourages paper recycling to combat deforestation and carbon emissions and we will also roll out our annual "Green Call" project on **24<sup>th</sup> March**. So get involved in these engagement opportunities and let us work together for a better environment.



## 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> February

### UNEP CPR Subcommittee Draft Resolutions Meetings

EEG attended on **1<sup>st</sup> February**, UNEP's crucial Committee of Permanent Representatives subcommittee meeting to discuss draft resolutions under Clusters A & B prior to UNEA-6. Co-facilitators from Japan, Ghana, India and the Netherlands led discussions on topics ranging from abating pollution to restoring ecosystems. Cluster A addressed issues such as managing chemicals, waste and improving air quality, while Cluster B focused on halting biodiversity loss and restoring nature through halting land degradation, strengthening water policies, and creating standards for nature based solutions. The meeting, the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 sessions prior to the UNEA-6 major event that is planned to be held towards the end of February, underscored the importance of international collaboration in tackling urgent environmental issues.

On **6<sup>th</sup> February**, EEG virtually participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 sessions of the UNEP CPR Subcommittee meeting before UNEA-6. The meeting discussed draft resolutions under Clusters C & D. Cluster C focused on fostering national action, enhancing regional cooperation, and promoting synergistic approaches to global crises. While Cluster D addressed circular economy transition, environmental assistance in conflict areas and sustainable lifestyles.

On **8<sup>th</sup> February**, EEG actively participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final session of the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Subcommittee meeting. The discussion focused on draft resolutions and decisions under Cluster E, addressing procedural, budgetary and administrative matters. EEG noted that deliberations on enhancing the role and viability of regional environmental ministerial forums, are crucial for fostering multilateral cooperation in addressing environmental challenges. The engagement underscores EEG's active involvement and dedication to strengthening global environmental governance and advancing collaborative efforts towards a sustainable future. Stay tuned for updates as we prepare for UNEA-6.

## 4<sup>th</sup> February

### EEG Chairperson Voices of the Future Generation Book Launch Ceremony

EEG Chairperson attended the distinguished book launch of Young Voices of Arabia on **4<sup>th</sup> February**. The launch was hosted by Her Highness Sheikha Hissa bint Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Goodwill Ambassador for the Middle East Region for Voices of Future Generations (VoFG). The event celebrated the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Rights of the Child through a collection of inspiring stories written by children in both English and Arabic. EEG was delighted to join such platform where the commitment to promoting youth empowerment and sustainability is a priority.



## 7<sup>th</sup> February

### EEG Participates in Plastic Pollution Treaty Session

On **7<sup>th</sup> February**, EEG actively engaged virtually in a session organised by the Forum on Trade, Environment & the SDGs (TESS) and the Geneva Environment Network. The session focused on implementing a treaty to end plastic pollution, it addressed the critical need for mobilising resources and financing for effective implementation. By collaborating with stakeholders, EEG aims to advance negotiations and secure ambitious outcomes towards a plastic-free future.

## 8<sup>th</sup> February

### How to report on education and lifelong learning

EEG Co-Founder & Chairperson attended an online webinar dedicated to reporting on Education and Lifelong learning as part of the Government of Ajman's initiatives. As an Emirati lady who has dedicated her life to building capacity and spread environmental literacy amongst the different sectors of society in the UAE and beyond, she was invited by the General Secretariate of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Ajman to join the session and to contribute in Ajman's new educational goals.

She readily joined this online discussion and contributed effectively by providing her insights on several educational related questions. The discussions revolved around steps needed to be undertaken to support the vision of lifelong learning, challenges, role of EEG in building environmental literacy and more.

## 16<sup>th</sup> February

### EGBC Monthly Meeting

As the Co-founder, Vice Chair and treasurer of Emirates Green Building Council, EEG Chairperson attended the monthly networking meeting of Emirates GBC at its offices in Dubai.

These meetings are held to ensure that the councils progress is discussed and shared with all the leadership of the council, its employees and members. The meeting was held on **16<sup>th</sup> February** and revolved around discussions of investment opportunities, ideas for council's development and other businesses.

## 20<sup>th</sup> February

### The Can Collection Campaign Media Support

On **20<sup>th</sup> February**, Emirates Environmental Group's chairperson was invited by Dubai TV and two prominent radio stations, Radio 4 and Channel 104.8, to talk about the Can Collection Campaign. EEG Co-Founder & Chairperson Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi was interviewed by Dubai TV in their studio, while Radio 4 and Channel 104.8 conducted recorded phone interviews with her, through these interviews, listeners were informed about the objectives of the campaign and encouraged to participate actively in recycling efforts. Mrs. Habiba emphasised the role of individuals and communities in preserving the environment and reducing waste through responsible disposal practices.

The support received from Dubai TV and leading radio stations Radio 4 and Channel 104.8 underscores the collective effort towards promoting environmental sustainability in the UAE. Through these collaborations, these media outlets have played a vital role in raising awareness and mobilising communities for positive environmental action. As EEG continues its advocacy for sustainable practices, such partnerships with media organisations serve as invaluable tools for driving meaningful change and fostering a greener, more resilient future.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future - Beyond Fast Fashion

February

On **21<sup>st</sup> February**, Emirates Environmental Group attended the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) side event titled "Beyond Fast Fashion," hosted by The Circular Fashion Initiative. This event served as a platform to delve into the transformative potential of sustainable fashion and its implications for the global fashion industry.

During the forum, we had the privilege of premiering the short film "Beyond Fast Fashion," produced by the Arizona State University Sustainable Earth project, which shed light on the importance of embracing sustainable fashion principles. The film underscored the need for a collective effort to address environmental and social challenges associated with fast fashion and highlighted the role of stakeholders in driving sustainable solutions.

Our participation didn't end with the film premiere. We attended the panel discussions, the insights and perspectives on key issues such as sustainability standards, corporate reporting requirements, and the challenges faced by fashion enterprises in the global South.

EEG remains steadfast in promoting sustainability across all sectors, including fashion. Our participation in events like "Beyond Fast Fashion" reflects our commitment to driving positive change and fostering a more sustainable future for generations to come.

## 24<sup>th</sup> Can Collection Day

February

The Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), conducted its 1<sup>st</sup> major recycling campaign for the year 2024; the "Can Collection Day" on **24<sup>th</sup> February** under the theme "With a #CANDO Attitude the Future is in our Hands". Due to the popular demand, EEG opened a site in Ajman as well in this cycle bringing the total to 6 designated locations; 3 in Dubai namely Zabeel Park, Al Barsha Pond Park, Al Mamzar Park, in Ras Al Khaimah at RAK Ceramics Factory, in Abu Dhabi at American International School and in Ajman at Ajman Museum!

The collective contributions of private organisations, academic institutions, government entities and families resulted in the collection of **7,002 kg** of Aluminium Cans for recycling. Since its inception, EEG has managed to collect **415,028 kg** of Aluminium Cans for recycling, which has resulted in the mitigation of **6,230 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e**, saving of **10,075 m<sup>3</sup>** of landfill space and the conservation of **94,454 million BTU of energy**.

A successful development agenda requires inclusive partnerships - built upon principles and values, a shared vision and goals that place people and the planet at the centre. With this thought in mind, EEG was delighted to have on board several partners and supporters for this campaign such as Dubai Municipality, American International School (AUH), RAK Ceramics Factory and Ajman Museum for providing the venue support; Department of Economy & Tourism in Dubai for mobilising and encouraging the hospitality sector to come on board and actively participate. Abela & Co., ISS Relocations, Berkely, Sharjah National Lube Oil Co LLC, Globelink West Star Shipping, Labotel and Tristar for providing logistical support and McDonald's UAE for providing volunteers, Gulf News and Al Murad Group who came on board as media partners. In addition, EEG is also delighted to have Lucky Recycling support the campaign as the recycling partner.



## 26<sup>th</sup> EEG Participates in 16<sup>th</sup> Session Khalifa International Date Palm Award Ceremony

February

On **26<sup>th</sup> February**, EEG Co-Founder and Chairperson attended the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Khalifa International Date Palm & Agricultural Innovation Awards. The President of the awards Board of trustees addressed the attendees and announced the names of the new board of trustees. This global event highlighted the significance of date palm cultivation in sustainable development. EEG's presence underscores its commitment to promoting environmental sustainability and agricultural innovation. We are honoured to participate in initiatives that contribute to the UAE's leadership in global partnerships for sector development.

## 26<sup>th</sup> Sixth Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6)

February

One of the biggest environmental global events took place from **26<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> of March**. The United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6) was held at the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi - Kenya.

EEG was delighted to attend virtually different sessions of UNEA6 that focused on tackling the triple planetary crisis through a multilateral approach. The triple planetary crisis addressed included climate change; nature & biodiversity loss; and pollution & waste. To address the same, the resolutions passed and decisions made had strong scientific background, political determination, and societal engagement. UNEA witnessed multiple sectors of the global society coming together to address the same including government, scientific groups, civil society and the private sector.

Each day consisted of a set of diverse meetings and dialogues to address the current issues and updates on previous resolutions. There were several side events also that brought together key stakeholders into the discussion fold. These included regional, political and other major groups.

Other concurrent sessions covered topics of responsible mining, fashion, net zero buildings, soil health, financing nature based solutions and more. The event concluded with the summary statements and Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA-7.



## 27<sup>th</sup> February UN One Planet - Webinar on Sustainable Chem Talk: Decoding Green Practices in Product Communication

On 27<sup>th</sup> February, EEG attended a webinar conducted by the One Planet Network, UNEP and Sida under the theme “Sustainable ChemTalk: Decoding Green Practices in Product Communication”. The webinar brought together various industry experts to discuss the importance of making chemicals sustainable and environmentally friendly. The experts included representatives from Bioregional, HEJ Support, ZDHC, UNEP, Union Chemical PLC and UNCTAD.

The webinar started with a reveal and discussion of a guidance publication of UNEP and One Planet Network titled Communicating Chemical in Products - which details the importance of disclosing harmful chemicals by manufactures and to consumers, role of chemicals in sustainable consumption and production, fundamental principles to follow, aspirations, best practices and more.

A panel discussion followed consisting of three speakers representing environmental justice, fashion industry and private chemical manufacturers, they brought their perspectives to the table to address chemicals and sustainability. Some of the key discussion points included transparency to consumers, impact of chemicals in the entire life cycle of and not only the end product, and also the value added in investing in sustainable chemicals, global laws, ecolabels and more. Overall, EEG was delighted to attend this webinar and gain valuable insight from all the speakers.

## One Root, One Communi-Tree

EEG kicked off its 14<sup>th</sup> cycle of its unique recycling project, the “One Root One Communi-tree” (OROC) in January. With phase one set from 24<sup>th</sup> January - 24<sup>th</sup> May, this project attracts participants from all sectors of society. Large quantities of various selected recyclable materials have started pouring in at the EEG office from individuals, families, schools, companies, hotels & government sector entities. The time to act is now, therefore, start collecting and start your recycling journey 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 sapling to be planted under their names at the end of the year as part of the ‘For Our Emirates We Plant’ campaign. To help reduce landfill space, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sinks within UAE.



## Campus News

### Environmental Drawing Competition (EDC)

In the vibrant world of drawing competitions, a compelling connection with nature and the environment can transform students' expression into a powerful tool for awareness. Selecting themes that relate to nature and life results in students being inspired to explore the beauty of nature and also encourages reflection on environmental challenges. EEG Launched the 19<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Environmental Drawing Competition with educational components on conservation and sustainable practices to deepen participants' understanding, fostering more informed and impactful creations. Moreover, the competition focused on 3 main topics which highlighted the main three best practices to protect nature; A Breath of Purity, Wheel of Tomorrow & Waste-less Wonders.

The EDC is considered a platform for environmental advocacy through creativity by highlighting the most important environmental issues to foster a dialogue on the intersection of art, nature and environmental awareness. Drawing competitions become a catalyst for artists to showcase their talent and to contribute meaningfully to global conversations on protecting our planet.

So, please do not hesitate to express your thoughts using your drawing skills by registering in this competition at this link: <https://forms.gle/fXz1eGRYa8AzL5Qo8>.



### Renew Our World Competition

In the vibrant world of drawing competitions, a compelling connection with nature and the environment can transform Water scarcity is a pressing global issue, with many regions facing challenges in ensuring access to clean and sustainable water resources. In the pursuit of innovative solutions, the Renew Our World Competition emerges as a beacon of hope, bringing together brilliant minds from around the world to address water-related challenges. EEG launched the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the ‘Renew Our World’ water competition as a platform for fostering creativity, collaboration, and technological advancements to tackle the complex issues surrounding water management, the registration will close on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

The challenge requires students to develop an innovative solution for water challenges whether it is for conservation, access, or finding more sustainable methods of utilising drinking water or alternative solutions to using water. This challenge is the official precursor to the prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP), where the winning senior student will represent the UAE and compete on an international level in Sweden.

If you wish to know more about this unique educational programme, drop an email at [edu@eeg.ae](mailto:edu@eeg.ae) or [renewourworld@eeg.ae](mailto:renewourworld@eeg.ae). for registration kindly visit this link: <https://forms.gle/2hHibK3ENx7At5KE9>



## Art from Waste

In the realm of artistic expression, a groundbreaking movement is underway as artists breathe new life into recyclable waste, crafting extraordinary masterpieces from discarded materials. EEG launched the Art From Waste Competition to challenge students to view waste not as refuse but as a useful item for creative exploration. The integration of educational elements within these competitions elevates awareness about the environmental impact of art creation, instilling a sense of responsibility towards the planet. Moreover, EEG requested from the participants in this competition to make products manufactured from recyclable waste.

Embracing the transformative power of recycled or upcycled materials becomes the cornerstone of inventive expression, rallying for waste reduction. Students are encouraged to find beauty in the unconventional, turning discarded items into remarkable works resonating with environmental consciousness.

This competition aims to inspire a wider audience to appreciate the artistry in everyday refuse and foster a global dialogue on the importance of repurposing materials for a more eco-conscious future. Celebrating entries showcases exceptional creativity in transforming recyclable waste into artful wonders and it becomes a testament to the boundless possibilities of sustainable art, contributing to a brighter, greener world. So, please do not hesitate to register in this competition at this link: <https://forms.gle/4LycmLNweLbcN7MD6>. The registration closed on **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**.



## Tin Recycling Workshops

Tin recycling is a crucial component of environmental sustainability efforts, offering significant benefits such as resource conservation, waste reduction and energy savings. Despite facing challenges like limited infrastructure and product complexity, innovative solutions are being developed to overcome these obstacles. Emirates Environmental Group in partnership with Rainbow had finished on **20<sup>th</sup> February** conducting **7 Tin Recycling Workshops in 7 different schools**. The purpose of these workshops that started in September 2023 is to raise awareness and promote Tin recycling among consumers and businesses, so as to create a more sustainable future for ourselves and the future generations.

The collaborative initiative, aimed at promoting a holistic understanding of sustainable practices, succeeded in engaging **1,807 students & teachers** in enlightening sessions that introduced Tin to the students and its importance as a food packaging material and explored the differences between recycling and upcycling. The workshops were meticulously designed to empower students with the knowledge and skills to make informed choices that contribute to a greener and more sustainable future.

## Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition

In alignment with His Highness the President of the UAE's declaration that 2024 will continue to be a year dedicated to sustainability, EEG rolled out the 24<sup>th</sup> cycle of Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition to stand as an integral contributor to this overarching vision. This competition serves as a dynamic platform for students to speak their mind about their environmental concerns, search for innovative solutions and inspire collective action. By nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious leaders through refined communication skills and heightened awareness, EEG through this platform embodies the commitment to sustainability while discussing critical and important sustainability topics from **22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April**.

Topics chosen for the Sub Senior Category:

1. Greenovation: Envisioning Cities of Tomorrow.
2. Pending Eco-Excursions: Conservation & Sustainable Tourism.

As for the Senior Category, the topics chosen are:

3. Harmonised Communities: Leading Climate Conscious Society?
4. Benevolence of Oceans: Comprehending Planetary Security.

Winning entries often act as catalysts for change, aligning seamlessly with the goals of a sustainable future by influencing schools communities, policymakers and the educational sector in general to adopt eco-friendly practices. The competition, extending beyond mere rhetoric, engages school students, fostering a sense of solidarity amongst students and environmental advocates and creating a supportive network for ongoing sustainability initiatives. Thus, the environmental public speaking competitions becomes instrumental in amplifying and realising His Highness's vision for a sustainable year through the power of informed discourse and collective commitment to environmental stewardship. The registration will close on **15<sup>th</sup> March**. Please do not hesitate to register in this competition at this link: <https://forms.gle/V7dDM46o2ESS9drr5>

## Upcoming Events

2<sup>nd</sup> Panel Discussion



Paper Walk



Green Call





## Nature in Action for Peace

UNEP NEWS

UNEP’s latest publication of Perspective issue #48 is out under the theme “Nature in Action for Peace: Challenges and Opportunities to Address Environmental Dimensions of Conflict through Nature-based Solutions”. This issue was written under UNEP’s Civil Society Unit to better understand the impact of armed conflicts on the environment. The publication also focuses on how Nature-based Solution (Nbs) can be of help in response to growing environmental, climatic and societal challenges.

Understanding the potential shortcoming of Nbs framework; such as carbon offsetting, land grabbing and insufficient consent from local communities, green-washing, human rights abuses and more, this paper is taking lessons from successfully implemented Nbs in a conflict context and how it can contribute positively with good practices. The paper takes into consideration the peacebuilding project that PAX was/is involved. Some good practices include the right standards and safeguards, locally grown initiatives, disseminating information from diverse and independent sources and accountability. Several suggestions were also made in the paper for UNEP, UNEA members, and other international organisations to champion Nbs.

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual International Day of Zero Waste

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual International Day of Zero Waste will be observed on **30<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. This day serves as a crucial reminder of the urgent need to substantially reduce waste generation and embrace sustainable practices to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2023, millions of people worldwide came together to observe the inaugural International Day of Zero Waste, raising awareness of national, regional, and local zero-waste initiatives and their significance in promoting sustainable development. In recognition of its importance, the UN Secretary General António Guterres established an Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste, tasked with sharing success stories and disseminating best practices.

The International Day of Zero Waste, established through resolution 77/161 of the United Nations General Assembly, is jointly facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Waste pollution poses a significant threat to ecosystems, well-being and economic growth. With billions of tons of waste generated annually, and a large portion of it inadequately managed, it is imperative that we take collective action to address this issue.



## Desertification and Drought Day 2024: “United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future”

UNCCD NEWS

The 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Bonn-based United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which is the sole legally binding international treaty on land management and drought. This year’s day of observance will focus on the future of land stewardship under the theme “United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future.”

This year, Bonn will host world leaders, youth, civil societies, sports, and entertainment personalities and more on the global observance day at the Bundeskunsthalle which is the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany. This will precede the world’s largest UN conference on land and drought (UNCCD COP16) to be held in December in Riyadh - KSA.

UNCCD together with the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the City of Bonn as their partner, will kick-start a #UNited4Land public awareness campaign from May to June engaging entities in various events in and around Bonn on the future of land stewardship. Similarly, other countries will also partake through other education and action events.

To read more: <https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/press-releases/desertification-and-drought-day-2024-united-land-our-legacy-our-future>.

## EEG MEMBERS’ UPDATE

EEG welcomed 4 new students, 7 renewed student members, 1 renewal academic member in the month of February 2024

### Student Membership

Aayush Krishnanivas Supal	New	Parvalthy Rajesh Nair	Renewal
Tarun Ranjith	New	Sahasra Magesh Kumar	Renewal
Ananya Kothari	New	Ali Zain Vakil	Renewal
Tarun Verghese Ranjith	New	Hassan Abdallah Hassan	Renewal
-	-	Ranveer Anand	Renewal
-	-	Vedanth Aggarwal	Renewal
-	-	Trisha Nikhilkumar Sayani	Renewal

### Academic Membership

-	-	Global Indian International School LLC	Renewal
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The collection of materials for recycling in the month of February resulted in the following benefits:

- » **Reduction of 384 (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) GHG**
- » **Saving of 3,754 Million BTU of Energy**
- » **Saving of 839 m<sup>3</sup> of Landfill Space**
- » **Saving of 1,124 Trees from being felled**
- » **Saving of 197 Gallons of Gasoline**



PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
During February 2024, EEG successfully collected 65,707 kg of Paper from 180 participating entities. While February saw a 7% increase in paper collection compared to the previous month, we encourage the community to gear up for upcoming initiatives as we progress through the year.	Lycée Français International Georges Pompidou	979	Preet Pannu	1,100
	American School of Dubai, Al Barsha	947	Sultan Ali Al Zaabi	938
	Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Islamic Institute	900	Nia Treeza Tony	510
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG gathered 7,339 kg of Aluminium Cans in February 2024 from 138 participating entities, marking a 734% increase from January 2024. This outstanding achievement is due to triumph and power of participants within the community who participated in our February 24th Can Collection Day. We have achieved only 25.8% of our annual goal. We encourage everyone to continue depositing to enable us to reach this year's target.	Al Abraaq School for the first Cycle	62	Trisha Nikhilkumar Sayani	30
	Far Eastern Private School Halwan	25	Avyaan Bhandari	17
	Woodlem Park School Dubai	19	Onish Yadav	16
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG successfully gathered 10,014 kg of plastic from 118 participating entities, marking a 6% increase from the previous month. We're energised and we are calling on the community to join us in building momentum.	Sultan Bin Zayed School Al Ain	800	Salma Zaabi & Sheikha Zaabi (Tie)	361
	Our Own High School, Dubai	262	Ali Darwish Mubarak Salim Alzaabi	136
	Umm Al Quwain School 2 Cycle for Boys	175	Ahmad Moosa AlHashimi	95
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
In February 2024, EEG gathered 485 toner cartridges from 11 participating entities, showing a notable 289% increase from the previous month. Let's channel this spirit into the upcoming months, aiming for even greater sustainability achievements together!	Sharjah English School	23	Mishka Punjabi	148
	-	-	-	-
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
In February 2024, EEG accomplished the collection of 11,215 kg of glass bottles from 59 participating entities. While February saw a 24% increase in glass collection compared to the previous month, we encourage the community to gear up for upcoming initiatives as we progress through the year. Let's work together to increase these numbers, ensuring a positive trend throughout the year. Your participation makes a significant impact on our environmental goals.	Al Tamouh School, 1 2 3 Cycle	15	Lena Murali	165
	-	-	Mariyam Zaabi	137
	-	-	Sonia Gandhi	110
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
In February 2024, EEG effectively gathered 274 kg of e-waste from 16 participating entities. February saw a 23% increase in e-waste collection compared to 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 March, ensuring a positive shift in our e-waste collection efforts.	-	-	Mizna Ali Al Zaabi	90
	-	-	Muneera Ali Al Zaabi	53
	-	-	Jameela Ali Al Zaabi	13
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	School	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
In February 2024, EEG collected 811 kg of scrap metal from 22 participating entities, marking a 132% increase from the previous month. It's time to turn the tide! Join us in March 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.	Al Tamouh School, 1 2 3 Cycle	10	Afra Ali Al Zaabi	160
	-	-	Mizna Ali Al Zaabi	159
	-	-	Fateem Ali Al Zaabi	135
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	In February 2024, EEG collected 9 mobile phones from 6 participating entities, marking a 97% decrease from the previous month. As the electronic devices continue to dominate the global sphere, more waste is being generated with new models being released and old devices being thrown. We encourage all the participants to deposit their old mobile for recycling in order to boost the local circular economy and enhancing sustainability through less resource extraction from the Earth.			
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.				

