# **EEG EDU NEWS**

Together for a Better Environment®





September 202 Issue 9

PANEL DISCUSSION

# **PACKAGING INNOVATION**

Influence on Environment & Health

24th OCTOBER 2024



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# **Upcoming Events**





# Click on the issue

Chairperson's Note	2
EEG News	3
Ongoing & Upcoming Events	4
Member News	5
UN News	6
Waste Management Report	7

#### **Reach Out to EEG for More Details**



#### **BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES:**

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





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**DESIGNED BY:** Fazmi Zakam



#### Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear Members, Supporters and Well Wishers

As we transition into September and slowly easing out of the very hot summer months of the year, it is important to reflect on the remarkable progress we achieved throughout August in spite of the harsh weather conditions.

The commitment, energy, and collaboration displayed across all our projects have been truly inspiring. From organising successful events to driving strategic initiatives and collectively tackling challenges, each one of you has significantly contributed to the momentum we've built. For this, I am deeply grateful.

The latest developments in sustainability over the past month have provided both motivation and direction. The push towards a circular economy is gaining significant traction, as industries are increasingly adopting practices that are helping to reduce waste by designing products and processes that allow materials to be reused and recycled. Sustainable urban development has similarly been a major focus, with cities worldwide adopting green infrastructure, promoting energy-efficient buildings and enhancing public transportation systems to reduce their carbon footprints. This commitment towards sustainable development was particularly evident in the various meetings that I attended virtually or physically.

The global conversation around sustainability has reached new heights, and I am proud that we are contributing to this dialogue and also leading with concrete actions. As we enter the last quarter of the year, I want to emphasize the importance of maintaining and amplifying our commitment to sustainable practices.

Our engagements throughout the month reflected this dedication. On **7**<sup>th</sup> **August**, we participated in the pivotal event titled "Road to Busan: Potential Approaches to Plastic Products and Chemicals of Concern in the Plastic Treaty." This session was a crucial step in the ongoing international dialogue aimed at shaping a global treaty to address plastic pollution and harmful chemicals.

Following this, on 8th & 12th August, we hosted workshops for students and faculty members from various universities in the People's Republic of China. These sessions provided invaluable opportunities for international knowledge exchange, focusing on the development of effective educational and waste management programmes in schools and universities.

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on **9th August** saw us joining a commemorative online event that brought together a diverse audience. This day, established by the UN General Assembly, served as a reminder of the importance of inclusivity and sustainability in all our initiatives.

I was also actively engaged on the global level as I attended several virtual meetings for the MENA GBC Network and the WorldGBC. This was followed by my participation in Tristar Group's event, "The Journey to Net Zero - 3rd Edition," on 27th August organised in partnership with Khaleej Times, this event focused on exploring strategies and innovations to achieve net-zero

emissions-a crucial milestone in the global fight against climate change. In the afternoon of the same day, we hosted the much awaited 4<sup>th</sup> Panel Discussion at the Five Palm Hotel Jumeirah, titled "Indeterminably Rising Buildings: Addressing the Widening Net Zero Curtain." This gathering of industry leaders, professionals, and enthusiasts was dedicated to advancing sustainable architecture and promoting net-zero building practices.

On 28th August, I had the honour of participating as a keynote speaker in two significant events celebrating Emirati Women's Day. The day commenced with "Noor 2024", a prominent event organised by Aster. Themed "Women's Role in Sustaining the GCC's Meteoric Rise for the Next 50 Years," this event highlighted the pivotal contributions of women leaders to sustainability. Later that day, I spoke at a distinguished learning session hosted by Dubai Islamic Bank. This session celebrated the achievements of Emirati women, with discussions focusing on "Emirati Women Empowerment with an Angle on Sustainability."

Finally, on **29**th **August**, we attended a webinar hosted by the World Packaging Organisation (WPO) titled "Co-Packing Trends and Perspectives." This session offered valuable insights into the evolving co-packing industry.

These diverse engagements and events reflect our ongoing commitment to sustainability, which is further highlighted in the detailed articles attached to this newsletter. I encourage you all to read them and consider how we can incorporate these insights into our practices. Whether through innovative event solutions, sustainable partnerships, or internal process improvements, there is always room for growth and leadership in this vital area.

Looking ahead to September, I urge everyone to participate in our ongoing and upcoming programmes. Our commitment to sustainability, innovation, and excellence sets us apart, and I am certain that we will keep making meaningful impacts in these areas. I am excited to see the creative and impactful ideas that will emerge from our efforts and I am committed to supporting all of you as we work towards our shared goals.

Before I close my message, please mark your calendars for an important event hosted by our sister organisation, the ACSRN. They will be holding the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Forum and Arabia CSR Awards Gala on **9**th **and 10**th **October**, where EEG is the Environmental Partner in both. This forum will be a dynamic platform for thought leadership, knowledge exchange and industry collaboration.

Esteemed speakers will provide invaluable insights, strategies, and best practices for advancing sustainable development goals. It is an excellent opportunity for forging partnerships, driving meaningful change, and catalysing action towards a more sustainable future.

Thank you once again for your hard work, passion and commitment. Together, let us work to shape the future of our organisation and also contribute to a more sustainable and equitable world.



## **Championing Mangrove Conservation**

EEG student members, Gaurika and Vedika Gautam, are making significant strides in mangrove conservation through their impactful awareness workshops aimed targeting children. This summer, they have conducted several workshops in both the UAE and India, educating young minds about the crucial role mangroves play in our ecosystem.

One of their notable contributions was a workshop held on **26<sup>th</sup> July** at the Children City, in collaboration with Dubai Municipality. This event, which coincided with the International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems, provided an engaging platform for children to learn about and appreciate mangrove conservation.

Gaurika and Vedika's journey into mangrove conservation has been significantly influenced by their involvement with the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG). EEG's dedication to environmental education and sustainable practices has been a cornerstone in shaping their approach. The group's extensive resources, workshops and guidance have equipped them with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively communicate the importance of mangroves to younger audiences. EEG's support has amplified their efforts and provided them with a platform to expand their reach and impact.

EEG's influence is evident in the way they have integrated its core values into their workshops. By aligning their initiatives with EEG's mission, they have been able to leverage the group's network and expertise to create more engaging and informative sessions. The group's emphasis on practical, hands-on learning has inspired them to incorporate interactive elements that make conservation education both fun and memorable for children.

As Gaurika and Vedika continue their commendable work in mangrove conservation, their efforts reflect a deep commitment to fostering environmental awareness and stewardship. Their journey exemplifies how support from organisations like EEG can inspire and amplify individual and collective actions for a sustainable future.

# Chinese Delegates Visit Emirates Environmental Group to Explore Educational Initiatives

On 8th August 2024, a student focused delegation from Beijing - China, visited the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) office, arranged through the Youth Bridge Foundation. The visit aimed to explore EEG's initiatives and understand how the organisation builds students' capacity through educational programmes. The delegation was welcomed by EEG, who provided a comprehensive presentation highlighting the organisations' ongoing efforts to educate and empower young people on environmental sustainability. The session covered various interactive activities designed to foster environmental awareness and instill sustainable practices among students.



A 2<sup>nd</sup> visit took place on **12<sup>th</sup> August 2024**, for a delegation of Chinese teachers from Beijing Normal University. The focus was on exchanging ideas and exploring collaboration opportunities to further enhance environmental education initiatives. Both visits underscored the growing international interest in EEG's work and its impact

on promoting sustainability through education. The collaboration between EEG and the Youth Bridge Foundation marks a significant step towards strengthening global partnerships in environmental education.

# EEG Hosts 4th Panel Discussion on Net Zero Buildings

The Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) hosted its highly anticipated 4<sup>th</sup> Panel Discussion for the year 2024 on **27<sup>th</sup> August**, titled "Indeterminably Rising Buildings: Addressing the Widening Net Zero Curtain," at the prestigious Five Palm Hotel Jumeirah. The event marked a significant gathering of industry leaders, professionals, and enthusiasts dedicated to advancing sustainable architecture and promoting Net-Zero building practices. The panel discussion delved deep into the complexities and challenges associated with achieving Net-Zero buildings. The focus was on exploring innovative solutions to attain carbon neutrality in building design amidst growing complexities related to construction costs, technology integration and regulatory compliance.



Throughout the session, attendees were presented with valuable insights from expert speakers who shared their knowledge and experiences. The plenary consisted of five expert speakers: **Mr. Haithem Ibraheem** – Vice

President of Operations, Brookfield Properties, **Mr. Sarfraz Dairkee** – GM of Corporate Development and Engineering, M.A.H.Y. Khoory& Co, **Dr. Thanveer Hussain** – Managing Director, Hansa Energy Solutions, **Mr. Jason Carlow** – Associate Professor and Head of Department of Architecture, American University of Sharjah, **Ms. Muna Al Nahdi** – Head of Sustainability and Consultancy, Farnek

The speakers brought to the stage their knowledge from private and academic sectors which included various aspects of a sustainable building including architecture, engineering, operations, retrofitting and managing upstream & downstream emissions. The event featured real-world case studies that showcased practical strategies and successful implementations of sustainable building technologies. These presentations highlighted how various projects have navigated the hurdles of achieving net-zero goals, offering attendees practical examples and actionable ideas.

The event also explored how to integrate cutting-edge technologies, innovative design principles and forward-thinking policies to ensure that our towering achievements do not come at the expense of our planet. It examined the latest advancements in green architecture, the challenges of scaling these solutions to meet the needs of growing urban populations and the collaborative efforts required to drive this transformation. What are the economic implications of investing in net-zero energy high-rises, and how do these structures contribute to job creation in the sustainability and construction sectors? What challenges do cities face in integrating net-zero energy high-rises into existing urban landscapes, and how can these challenges be effectively addressed? How do net-zero energy high-rises prioritise occupant well-being, and what are the social and health benefits associated with these buildings? What role can governments, businesses, and the construction industry play in fostering the widespread adoption of net-zero energy high-rises? An interactive session allowed participants to engage directly with experts and peers, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and solutions.



## EEG's Neighbourhood Recycling Project (NRP)

Since its inception in 2010, EEG's Neighbourhood Recycling Project (NRP) has been a key initiative in fostering environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

The NRP addresses the need for meaningful community activities during the summer by empowering students and youth to lead recycling initiatives in their neighborhoods.

This programme helps instill early habits of waste reduction and recycling, nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious individuals dedicated to preserving the UAE's natural beauty.

Over the years, the project has expanded to include a wider community beyond just EEG's students. Participants in the NRP contribute to reducing landfill waste and play an essential role in promoting sustainable living within their communities.

Join us in making a difference! Click her to register: CLICK HERE



#### Join EEG's One Root, One Communi-Tree Phase 2

EEG is excited to continue its impactful project; the 'One Root, One Communi-Tree' Phase 2. This project is a call to action for all sectors of society-corporates, academic institutions, families, and individuals-to come together and support our strong recycling platform.

Since its launch in 2010, the 'One Root, One Communi-Tree' project has provided a unique opportunity for participants to contribute to environmental conservation.

By collecting and depositing recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, aluminium cans, toners, glass, mobile phones, toner cartridges and electronic waste, participants can achieve the set recycling targets and earn the chance to plant a sapling of a native tree in their name. This project supports the strategy of proper waste management and helps expand green spaces across the UAE.

The recycling targets are tailoured to each sector, ensuring that goals are achievable and impactful. Your involvement in this annual event will directly contribute to reducing waste and fostering a culture of sustainability within your community.

Join us in making a significant difference for our environment and building a greener future together! To take part, simply gather your recyclable materials and submit them within the specified timeframe.

For more information and to get started click here: CLICK HERE (S)



#### **Upcoming Events**

# **EEG's Students' Workshops**

The virtual workshop titled "Reevaluating Reality: Discovering Our Sustainable City", organised by the Emirates Environmental Group, will be held on October 21-23, 2024, inviting students from around different Emirates to explore the future of urban living through a sustainability lens.

Each day focuses on a critical aspect of city life: urban ecology and green spaces, energy efficiency and renewable resources, and sustainable transportation and waste management for different group ages. Through interactive activities, students will learn how to design and advocate for eco-friendly urban environments.

This workshop offers students a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of sustainability within an urban context. By participating, they will gain valuable knowledge, develop critical problem-solving skills, and connect with like-minded peers.

The program encourages students to think creatively about the challenges facing our cities and equips them to contribute meaningfully to the creation of sustainable urban spaces in the future.

To register, please visit this link: CLICK HERE 🔊

For further details regarding registration, guidelines, Rules and regulations, and Concept Notes, please contact us at <a href="edu@eeg.ae">edu@eeg.ae</a>, or <a href="eeg@emirates.net.ae">eeg@emirates.net.ae</a>. Should you have any inquiries or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our team on 0097143448130, 0097143448622, WhatsApp 00971501958138





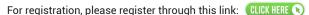
## The 24th Cycle of Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition

The Environmental Public Speaking Competition for undergraduate students is part of the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) program, scheduled to take place from 25th to 28th November. This event provides a platform for young advocates to address ecological challenges by delivering speeches on critical environmental topics, emphasizing both knowledge and communication skills.

This year we are focusing on the following topics:

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

Beyond the competition, students gain valuable public speaking and advocacy skills while building networks that support future initiatives. The event fosters the next generation of environmental leaders, empowering them to influence policy, inspire action, and contribute to a sustainable future.



For further details regarding registration, guidelines, Rules and regulations, and Concept Notes, please contact us at <a href="edu@eeg.ae">edu@eeg.ae</a>, or <a href="eeg@emirates.net.ae">eeg@emirates.net.ae</a>. Should you have any inquiries or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our team on 0097143448130, 0097143448622, WhatsApp 00971501958138



#### **Member News**

#### EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE

EEG welcomed 13 new students, 9 renewed students in the month of August 2024

Student Membership							
Hari Ganesh Babu	New	Twarita Verma	Renewal				
Sakti Ganesh Babu	New	Arnav Jain	Renewal				
Elona Prince	New	Aradhana Suresh	Renewal				
Neerad Krishna Rajaneesh	New	Mishka Punjabi	Renewal				
Vihaan Gupta	New	Samendu Varma Poosapati	Renewal				
Afsheen Banu Sheikh	New	Aarav Wadhawan	Renewal				
Prakhar Kumar	New	Ananya Manikandan	Renewal				
Aadit Agarwal	New	Kshirja Dhawiwal	Renewal				
Vihaan Poddar	New	Evana Eliza Vinoj	Renewal				
Lucas Mezzina	New	-	-				
Yitian Wang	New	-	-				
Ahmad Abdullah Abdulrahim	New	-	-				
Kryzann Fernandes	New	-	-				

## **UNEP Spearhead the Launch of 1st Regional Eco-Labeling Initiative**

Latin America and the Caribbean made a significant stride in environmental sustainability with the launch of their 1st regional eco-labeling initiative this August. This groundbreaking project aims to foster environmental responsibility across the region by providing a unified standard for eco-friendly products and services.

The new eco-labeling scheme represents a landmark development for Latin America and the Caribbean, regions that are rich in biodiversity but also face pressing environmental challenges. The initiative, spearheaded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), seeks to create a comprehensive system that will guide consumers, businesses and governments in making more sustainable choices.

The eco-labeling initiative is designed to identify and promote products and services that meet rigorous environmental standards. By establishing a consistent set of criteria across multiple countries, the programme aims to simplify the process of recognising environmentally friendly options and encourage businesses to adopt more sustainable practices.

Key features of the eco-labeling initiative include:

- 1. **Standardisation:** The initiative introduces a unified set of environmental criteria that products and services must meet to qualify for the eco-label.
- 2. **Consumer Awareness:** By providing clear and recognisable eco-labels, the initiative aims to empower consumers to make informed choices.
- 3. Support for Businesses: The programme offers businesses a framework to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.
- 4. Regional Collaboration: The initiative represents a collaborative effort among multiple countries in the region.

As the eco-labeling programme is rolled out, it is expected to enhance regional environmental performance and contribute to global sustainability efforts. The initiative serves as a model for other regions and underscores the importance of collaborative approaches in addressing environmental challenges.



UNCCD NEWS

# **UNCCD's Transboundary Cooperation Project**

The Horn of Africa, a region marked by its diverse ecosystems and significant environmental challenges, has recently seen a promising development in addressing these issues through transboundary cooperation. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) highlights the importance of collaborative efforts among countries in this region to build resilience against the impacts of climate change and land degradation.

One notable initiative is the Great Green Wall (GGW) project, which aims to combat desertification and restore degraded lands across the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. This ambitious project seeks to create a mosaic of green spaces stretching across Africa, from Senegal to Djibouti, enhancing ecosystem services, improving soil fertility, and promoting sustainable land management.

Recent developments in the Horn of Africa reflect significant strides in transboundary cooperation. For instance, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia have been working together to implement integrated land management strategies that address both environmental and socio-economic issues. These collaborative efforts are supported by regional frameworks and international organisations, including the UNCCD, which provide technical and financial assistance.

The collaborative approach includes joint projects on reforestation, sustainable agriculture and water resource management. By sharing knowledge and resources, these countries aim to create more resilient ecosystems and improve the adaptive capacity of local communities. These efforts address immediate environmental concerns and contribute to long-term sustainable development.

Transboundary cooperation in the Horn of Africa also involves the engagement of local communities in the decision-making process. By involving grassroots organisations and stakeholders, these initiatives ensure that solutions are tailoured to the specific needs and conditions of the region. This inclusive approach enhances the effectiveness of projects and fosters a sense of ownership among the communities directly affected by environmental changes.



September 2024

The collection of the below mentioned materials for recycling in the month of August, resulted in the following benefits:

- » Reduction of 541 (MTCO,e) GHG
- Saving of 3,714 Million BTU of Energy
- Saving of 841 m<sup>3</sup> of Landfill Space
- Saving of 2,554 Trees from being felled
- Saving of 1,482 Gallons of Gasoline

















PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
During August 2024, EEG successfully collected 131,362 kg of Paper from 202 participating entities. Showing a 32% decrease in paper collection compared to the previous month, the second highest collection so far this year. We thank the community for their active participation and encourgae them to continues their environmental efforts	Bloomington Academy Ajman	5,950	Sultan Ali Alzaabi	2,424
	Al Rayan Primary School Cycle 1	5,790	Amin Bouhanouch	1,040
for the upcoming initiatives and projects as we progress through the year.	Wesgreen International School	3,725	Sainath Manikandan	768
CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools Quantity (Kg) I		Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG managed to collect 992 kg of Aluminium Cans for recycling in August from 21 participating entities, marking a 67% increase compared to July 2024. We urge the		-	Ousama Ghazlan	30
community to support us by collecting and depositing their Aluminium Cans for recycling to enable us to achieve this year's target of collecting 31,800 kg of Aluminium Cans.	-		Divyansh Virla	20
PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG gathered 9,025 kg of Plastic in August 2024 from 106 participating entities, marking a 7% decrease from the previous month. We urge the community to rally around us and increae efforts in diverting this waste material from our lands and oceans.	Ethen School Cycle 1 Ras Al Khaimah	356	Ali Darwish Mubarak Salim Alzaabi	886
	Diyar Private Academy Dibba Boys	180	Saeed Ahmed Khalifa	150
	Our Own High School, Dubai	150	Umm Mousa Al	140
TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
In August 2024, EEG gathered a total of 346 toner cartridges from 15 participating entities, showing a decrease of 73% compared to the previous month. The impact that a mere 15 entities can have in the circular economy sphere is visible here. Help us to increase the number of participants thus increasing the quantity of toners collected and diverted from the landfills.	Al Tafawuk School Abu Dhabi	88	Eleena Prathap Singh	50
			Bhakti Venkatesh Hegde	40
concected and diverted from the failurns.			Mohammed Sameer	31
MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (Pcs)	Families	Quantity (Pcs)
In August 2024, EEG collected 391 mobile phones from 9 participating entities, showing a increase of 21% from the previous month. We encourge our members and participants to continue this positive trend and to collected and deposit their old mobile phones and help us tackle the mobile phone waste that is being generated by ever increasing digital	Al Shafei School	9	Dev Pradeep	14
	-	-	Ali Darwish Alzaabi	12
connectivity in the world. Help us conserve the precious resources by channeling the materials into the recycling streams.	-	-	-	-
GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG accomplished the collection of 7,516 kg of glass bottles from 47 participating entities in the month of August, marking a decrease of 13% from the previous month. Let's continue to work together to increase these numbers, ensuring a positive trend throughout the year.	Ethen School Cycle 1	10	Mariah Mubarak	370
	-	-	Twarita Verma	233
	-	-	Mubarak Darwish Alzaabi	82
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected in August, 900 kg of e-waste for recycling from 16 participating entities. August witnessed a decrease of 23% in e-waste collection compared to July. As e-waste generation increases across the country and the world, it is imperative that it is diverted away from landfills. Join us in taking positive action in the coming	Al Shafei School	60	Muneera Darwish	213
	Ethen School Cycle 1	39	Shaun Stephen Mathew	14
months, ensuring an effective impact of our e-waste collection efforts.	Jumeirah School	13	-	-
SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	Schools	Quantity (Kg)	Families	Quantity (Kg)
EEG collected 1,590 kg of scrap metal from 23 participating entities in August, registering a 2% decrease from the previous month. Metals have significant Greenhouse Gas emissions if not disposed of correctly. The collection of Scrap Metal provides a great source of raw material which can be utilised in all spheres of life. Join us in this crucial	Al Shafei School	111	Fateem Ali Alzaabi	886
		_	Abid Darwish Alzaabi	281
	-	_	7 told Dai wish 7 tizaaoi	201

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.

