

EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment®



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUP



December 2024
Issue 12



أتمنى لكم عيد إتحاد سعيد
WISHING YOU A BLESSED EID AL ETIHAD

Upcoming Events



Click on the issue

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Chairperson's Note | 2 |
| EEG News | 3 |
| Upcoming Events | 4 |
| Member News | 5 |
| UN News | 5 |
| Waste Management Report | 6 |

Reach Out to EEG for More Details



BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES:

From Monday to Friday & Sunday 9:00AM to 5:00PM
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Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear members and supporters,

As we approach the final stretch of 2024, it is both awe-inspiring and humbling to reflect on how quickly this year has passed. The days, weeks, and months have flown by, yet when we take a moment to pause, to look back at all that we have accomplished together as Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) with our wide network of members and strategic partners, it becomes abundantly clear: this year has been one of extraordinary momentum, growth and collective achievement. In the face of rapidly evolving environmental challenges, we have proven, time and again, that with determination, collaboration and innovation, we can push forward and rise to meet those challenges head-on.

The month of November has been especially remarkable, as it has highlighted the transformative impact of what we can achieve when we come together with purpose, commitment, and a shared vision for a sustainable future. The month has also been beautifully infused with culturally diverse events, some private and some open to the public. These gatherings have provided enriching experiences and have also offered "food for the soul," bringing communities together and celebrating our collective commitment to sustainability.

One of the most notable events was my participation at the World Urban Forum in Cairo, which took place from **5th to 7th November**. As one of the world's leading global platforms for urban dialogue, the forum brought together thought leaders, policymakers, and change-makers to discuss the future of cities and urbanisation in the context of sustainability. At both EEG and EmiratesGBC which I also co-founded and serve as a Vice Chair and Treasurer, we continue to be strong advocates for green cities, sustainable urban planning, and smart infrastructure-recognising that the future of our planet depends on the choices we make today when it comes to how we build, develop, and sustain the communities we live in.

On **9th November**, we celebrated a significant achievement in our journey towards waste reduction and circularity with the Can Collection Drive. EEG has been at the forefront of this movement for 28 years, and this year's drive was nothing short of extraordinary. We proudly held the campaign all over the UAE, collecting a record-breaking **13,988 kg of aluminium cans**-the highest amount ever gathered in a single day since the inception of the drive in 1997. On **20th November**, I had the privilege of attending the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy's Circular Economy Strategy Lab organised in association with the SEE institute. This event was a powerful reminder of the growing importance of the circular economy as we transition towards more sustainable models of consumption and production.

On **21st November**, I had the honour of attending two significant events that truly captured the essence of collaboration and empowerment in advancing sustainability. The first was the 50th Anniversary of the Dubai Women's Association, held under the esteemed patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak. This celebration was a poignant reminder of the critical role women play in driving sustainable development and championing environmental causes. The second event that day was the 112th Board Meeting of the World Packaging Organisation. The discussions held during this meeting further reinforced the idea that sustainable packaging solutions are essential to reducing waste, conserving resources, and ensuring the longevity of our planet's ecosystems.

We also marked an important milestone in the empowerment of the next generation during the Inter-College Environmental Public Speaking Competition held from **25th to 28th November**. The competition gave these young leaders a platform to voice their concerns and also reminded all of us of the critical importance of providing youth with the tools, knowledge, platform and inspiration to continue the fight for a sustainable future. The urgency with which they spoke echoed the reality that we must act now-before it is too late.

In addition to these impactful events, EEG continued to take action towards environmental restoration. This month alone, we organised and planted 3 separate tree planting activities in collaboration with Design Infinity, Ducab and Aster, with a total of **3,100 trees** planted/ This brings the total since the inception of "For our Emirates We Plant" programme to 2,137,601, further solidifying our commitment to reforesting and restoring our natural ecosystems. Our national tree planting initiatives align perfectly with the recently announced "Plant the Emirates" initiative by the Government of the UAE, both of which are dedicated to enriching our natural environment for future generations.

This month, I had the privilege of serving on the jury panels for two prestigious awards. The first, the Plan to Action: Year of Sustainability's Seal, evaluates participants based on the impact of their sustainability initiatives, innovation, community engagement, and alignment with the Year of Sustainability 2024 focus areas. The second, the Worldstar 2025 Award, recognises excellence in packaging innovation and sustainability, focusing on reducing waste, enhancing product safety, and improving consumer experience. Watch out for the next newsletter issue, where we'll share details once the final winners are announced.

Moreover, EEG has continued to engage in critical discussions and learning opportunities, participating in Train to Busan webinars and CPR Subcommittee meetings organised by UNEP to stay at the cutting edge of environmental practices and policies. It is vital that we continue to learn, evolve, and grow if we are to stay ahead of the challenges that climate change presents. Our ongoing participation in such platforms ensures that we are not only part of the conversation but are leading it.

Finally, we were deeply honoured to receive the Partnership Award from the Abu Dhabi City Municipality on **28th November**, recognising the importance of community involvement in building a more sustainable society. This award is a testament to the power of collaboration and reinforces the idea that together, we can make a difference-no matter how big or small the action. You can read more about our November engagements inside this newsletter.

As we draw closer to the end of this incredible year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. It is because of your unwavering dedication, your passion, and your belief in our mission that we have achieved all that we have. But the road ahead is long, and the challenges we face are far from over.

Together, we will continue to make a difference.

Thank you.



The 24th Cycle of Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition

The Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) held the 24th cycle of its annual Pan-Arab Educational Programme known as the “Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition” in a hybrid format hosted by Dubai Women’s Colleges for the 2nd year in a row, from the 25th till the 28th of November. This prestigious platform is for college and university students to share their perspectives on vital sustainability issues.

This competition welcomed **89 teams** representing various educational institutions from 16 different countries. The competition received support from distinguished organisations, including **UPS** and **McDonald’s UAE**. **Abela & Co** was the caterer for the event. **The American School of Creative Science** Maliha was the supporter that provided the students with event Emcee and topic summarisers.

The **534 participants** were encouraged to highlight sustainability problems and corresponding effective solutions crucial for the preservation of natural resources and the continuity of life on our planet under 4 pre-selected topics. EEG has outlined four overarching themes for this year’s competition, addressing critical global sustainability issues.

The issues in focus were:

1. **Greenovation: Envisioning Cities of Tomorrow**
2. **Pending Eco-Excursions: Conservation & Sustainable Tourism**
3. **Harmonised Communities: Leading Climate Conscious Society?**
4. **Benevolence of Oceans: Comprehending Planetary Security**

The winners for each of the 4 topics this year were:

| Topic | Winners |
|---|---|
| Topic 1: Greenovation: Envisioning Cities of Tomorrow | International University for the Humanities and Development, International Economics and Management, International Law and International Relations / Ashgabat, Turkmenistan |
| Topic 2: Pending Eco-Excursions: Conservation & Sustainable Tourism | Al Yamamah University, College of Business / Al Khobar , KSA |
| Topic 3: Harmonised Communities: Leading Climate Conscious Society? | Prince Sultan University, Teaching & Learning Centre - Debate Club / Riyadh, KSA |
| Topic 4: Benevolence of Oceans: Comprehending Planetary Security | University of Sharjah , College of Medicine - Department of Clinical Sciences / Sharjah, UAE |

The sought-after overall rolling trophy was bagged by **Prince Sultan University | Teaching & Learning Centre| Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, who cumulatively achieved the highest score across the 4-day competition. This is the third time that Prince Sultan University has scored the Overall Rank, thus, they have received the privilege of taking home the Rolling Trophy to be displayed in their university permanently.

Winning this competition is considered a major achievement considering the international calibre of the universities that compete against each other. The event was broadcasted live via YouTube, which garnered over 1,000 viewers daily; cumulating to over 5,102 attendees over 4 days.



Art from Waste 2025 Competition

The Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) is proud to announce to its wide network of academic institutions, the rolling out of the 2nd cycle of Art from Waste Competition 2025. It extends a cordial invitation to its wide network of schools across the UAE to take part in this transformative initiative. Open to students between the age of 9 to 17, this unique competition empowers young artists to explore the creative potential of waste by crafting exceptional art pieces from recyclable materials.

Under the theme "**Today's Waste... Tomorrow's Treasure,**" the competition challenges participants to rethink waste as valuable resources rather than environmental burdens. By focusing on this innovative perspective, the initiative aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goals 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 & 17 emphasizing education, sustainable development, sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, climate action amongst others.

The competition offers age-specific art projects designed to ignite creativity and environmental awareness:

- Ages 9-11: Sea Turtle
- Ages 12-14: Flamingo
- Ages 15-17: Oryx Leucoryx
- Students of Determination (Ages 9-17): Any of the above 3 species

Each participating school can register one team per project, with students working collaboratively to design and create their masterpieces. By transforming waste into art, participants contribute to reducing landfill waste, promoting recycling and spreading awareness about environmental sustainability.

To ensure your school secures a spot in this highly anticipated competition, we request you to kindly complete your registration at the earliest convenience. Full details, including the Rules & Regulations, can be accessed via the following link: [Click Here](#)

For inquiries, EEG's team is available to assist you by reaching out to edu@eeg.ae, eeg@emirates.net.ae, or by phone at 04344 8622 / 04 344 8130 or mobile 050 195 8138. Let us inspire the youth of today to become champions of sustainability and environmental innovation of tomorrow. Together, we can turn waste into treasure and shape a greener and brighter future for all.



Upcoming Events

Green December 2024: A Nationwide Call for Sustainability



As we launch Green December 2024, we are excited to open this important initiative to all sectors of society, marking an exciting new phase in our collective sustainability journey. This year, we are expanding the campaign to include students, corporations, and academic institutions allowing us all to work together for a greener future. Green December 2024 will run from **1st to 24th December**, and we are pleased to invite you to participate in this crucial environmental effort. Now in its 10th cycle, this campaign has become a hallmark of EEG's dedication to promoting sustainability, environmental stewardship, and waste reduction.

Known as the Winter Recycling Project, Green December encourages the collection of recyclable materials to help reduce waste and raise awareness about sustainability. As we begin this year's campaign, we look forward to collaborating with all sectors of society to achieve remarkable results. Together, we can reach new milestones in waste reduction and environmental responsibility, helping to create a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future. Let's make this December the greenest one yet. Your participation will not only benefit the environment but also inspire others to adopt sustainable practices in their communities. We look forward to your involvement and to seeing the positive impact we can create together. [Click here to register.](#)

The Clean UAE Campaign 2024



As we approach the final stages of preparation for the 23rd edition of the Clean UAE Campaign, we are excited to see the initiative take shape ahead of its launch on the **5th of December**. This year, as part of the UAE's Year of Sustainability, the campaign continues to inspire action and unite communities across the country in a shared commitment to environmental preservation. Under the patronage of the **Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA)**, the Clean UAE Campaign has evolved over the years into a powerful platform for raising environmental awareness and promoting sustainable practices. In 2022, the campaign reached a historic milestone when it was officially endorsed by the UAE Cabinet, further cementing its national importance.

Scheduled to run from the **5th to the 14th December**, this year's Clean UAE Campaign brings together businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and members of the community in a collective effort to contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable future. With the growing support and participation from various sectors, we are confident that this year's campaign will be one of our most impactful yet.

As we enter the final phase of preparations, we encourage everyone to join us in this national movement. Whether you are an individual, a company, or an institution, your involvement in the Clean UAE Campaign will help make a lasting difference in our efforts to protect the environment and build a greener, more sustainable UAE. We look forward to seeing you and to a successful campaign that continues to inspire positive change across the nation. Together, we can achieve remarkable results and ensure a cleaner, greener future for all.

Click here to register: [Click Here](#)



EEG’s New Academic Member: American School of Creative Science

We are delighted to share that the American School of Creative Science (ASCS) has joined EEG as its newest academic member. This distinguished institution, renowned for its innovative approach to education and its commitment to nurturing creativity and critical thinking, is a fantastic addition to our network of forward-thinking academic partners. The American School of Creative Science is dedicated to providing a high-quality educational experience that blends academic excellence with a strong emphasis on creativity and personal development. With a focus on cultivating students who are not only academically proficient but also socially responsible and innovative, ASCS aligns perfectly with EEG’s mission to promote sustainable practices and support educational excellence across the UAE.



EEG is excited about the potential for collaboration and the opportunities for knowledge exchange, as well as the collective impact we can make in the fields of sustainability and education. EEG looks forward to a productive and enriching partnership with the American School of Creative Science and the many exciting initiatives that lie ahead. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming events, collaborations, and projects. A warm welcome to the EEG family, ASCS! Know more about them at: [CLICK HERE](#)

EEG MEMBERS’ UPDATE

EEG welcomed 04 new students, 09 renewed students and a new academic members in the month of November 2024

Academic Membership

| American School of Creative Science-Maliha | | | New |
|--|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Student Membership | | | |
| Nadia Darmawan | New | Ahad Shaikh | Renewal |
| Troy Jose Dias | New | Radhika Pherwani | Renewal |
| Noor Al Sawaini | New | Shrenedhi Kothandaraman | Renewal |
| Shanessa Dsouza | New | Mugunthan Kannan | Renewal |
| Kevin Koshi Mathew | Renewal | Abarnaa Sai Veeraraghavan | Renewal |
| Adhyayan Singh | Renewal | Durga Sachin Nair | Renewal |
| Aarya Onkar Parulekar | Renewal | - | - |

Upcoming Events



Rising Nitrous Oxide Emissions Threaten Climate Goals and Ozone Layer Recovery

Findings from the new Global Nitrous Oxide Assessment (N₂O) warn that without urgent action to curb rising N₂O emissions, there will be no viable pathway to limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The assessment also provides tangible tools that could help reduce emissions by more than 40% from current levels. Nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential nearly 300 times greater than carbon dioxide, has been steadily increasing, primarily due to agricultural practices, industrial processes, and the overuse of synthetic fertilisers. N₂O is the third-largest greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide and methane, and its rising emissions could contribute to an additional temperature increase of up to 0.2°C by the end of the century, jeopardising the Paris Agreement’s target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. Beyond its role in climate change, nitrous oxide also accelerates ozone depletion, threatening the recovery of the ozone layer-one of the greatest environmental successes of the 1987 Montreal Protocol.

For more details, you can read the full article on the UNEP website: [CLICK HERE](#)



Key Insights on Drought Resilience Ahead of UNCCD COP16

As droughts become more frequent and severe, global experts gathered in Geneva for the Drought Resilience +10 conference to assess progress and chart a path forward for the upcoming UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, December 2024. In the past three years alone, over 30 countries declared drought emergencies, underscoring that no nation is immune. From high-income countries like the US, Canada, and Spain to vulnerable regions such as Southern Africa, India, and Indonesia, drought is emerging as a universal challenge. The conference highlighted that drought is no longer just an environmental issue-it is a development and security matter that demands urgent attention. As the Director of the UNU Institute for Water, Environment, and Health, stated, droughts are no longer anomalies but a “new normal.” Without adequate water, food production, livelihoods, and stability are threatened, leading to forced migration and conflict. This has significant implications for vulnerable populations, particularly subsistence farmers in low-income countries.

For more details, you can read the full article on the UNCCD website: [CLICK HERE](#)



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

- » Reduction of 618 (MTCO₂e) GHG
- » Saving of 6,139 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 1,098 m³ of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 1,836 Trees from being felled
- » Saving of 977 Gallons of Gasoline



| CAMPAIGN | Schools | Quantity (Kg) | Families | Quantity (Kg) |
|---|--|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN In November 2024, EEG successfully collected 96,291 kg of paper from 171 participating entities, marking a 9% increase compared to the previous month. We sincerely thank the community for their active participation and encourage everyone to continue their environmental efforts as we progress through the year and help us achieve our targets with ongoing initiatives and projects. | Our Own High School, Dubai | 2,030 | Alina Abdul Kader | 1,310 |
| | Hatta School 2 & Lycée Français International Georges Pompidou (Tie) | 1,530 | Afeefur Raheem | 505 |
| | Al Qurm School | 1,430 | Sahasra Magesh Kumar | 500 |
| CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN In November 2024, EEG collected 14,977 kg of aluminium cans for recycling from 1905 participating entities, reflecting a 1,929% increase compared to October. We encourage the community to continue supporting us by collecting and depositing their aluminium cans, helping us reach this year's target of 31,800 kg. | Higher College of Technology Fujairah | 388 | Ibrahim Pasha | 241 |
| | Indian School, Ras Al Khaimah | 175 | Trisha Nikhilkumar Sayani | 49 |
| | Gems Founders School | 86 | Aisha Faisal | 38 |
| PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN In November 2024, EEG collected 9,067 kg of plastic from 115 participating entities, marking a 25% decrease from the previous month. We urge the community to follow this positive trend and continue their efforts in diverting this waste from our lands and oceans, supporting a cleaner and more sustainable environment. | Our Own High School, Dubai | 390 | Ali Darwish Mubarak Salim Alzaabi | 609 |
| | Al Saad Indian School Al Ain | 260 | Zayad Mohammad Abdullah Bin Al Shehhi | 86 |
| | Al Wafaa Kindergarten Abudhabi | 170 | Rinnah Miriam Rithin | 75 |
| TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN In November 2024, EEG collected a total of 380 toner cartridges from 15 participating entities, reflecting a 74% decrease compared to the previous month. This demonstrates the significant impact a small number of entities can have in the pushing the sustainability agenda. We encourage more participants to join us, increasing the quantity of toner cartridges collected and diverted from landfills. | - | - | Khyati Agarwal | 76 |
| | - | - | Mohammed Zameer | 31 |
| | - | - | - | - |
| MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN In November 2024, EEG collected 243 mobile phones from 5 participating entities, marking a 9% decrease compared to the previous month. We encourage our members and participants to continue collecting and depositing their old mobile phones, helping us address the growing waste generated by increasing digital connectivity. Let's work together to conserve precious resources by channeling these materials into recycling streams. | - | - | Soham Jamjirkar | 40 |
| | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - |
| GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN In November 2024, EEG successfully collected 17,843 kg of glass bottles from 50 participating entities, marking an increase of 1% from the previous month. This is the second-highest collection of the year. Let's continue working together to boost these numbers and maintain this positive trend throughout the year. | Al Wafaa Kindergarten Abudhabi | 50 | Mariah Mubarak | 432 |
| | - | - | Twarita Verma | 140 |
| | - | - | Narayan Chandra Nayak | 130 |
| E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN In November 2024, EEG collected 2,328 kg of e-waste for recycling from 18 participating entities, reflecting a 15% increase compared to October. As e-waste generation continues to rise both nationally and globally, it is imperative that we divert it from landfills. Join us in taking positive action in the coming months to ensure the effectiveness of our e-waste collection efforts. | Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Arab Pakistan School | 166 | Kriti Sahni | 250 |
| | Our Own English School Sharjah Boys | 38 | Muneera Darwish Alzaabi | 73 |
| | Heriot Watt University Dubai Campus | 21 | Vidyuth Balaji | 48 |
| SCRAP METAL COLLECTION CAMPAIGN In November 2024, EEG collected 1,180 kg of scrap metal from 22 participating entities, reflecting an increase of 14% from the previous month. Improper disposal of metals can lead to significant greenhouse gas emissions, making it essential to manage them correctly. Collecting scrap metal provides a valuable source of raw materials that can be utilised across various sectors. Join us in this crucial campaign by depositing old iron, stainless steel, copper, and other common yet important metals. | - | - | Nia Treeza Tony | 250 |
| | - | - | Fateem Ali Alzaabi | 200 |
| | - | - | Mizna Ali Al Zaabi | 159 |

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.

