

# MULTAQANA

## A FORUM FOR EDUCATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY



**Welcome to the latest edition of Multakana! April 2017.**

Dear reader, we are pleased to present to you the latest issue of our newsletter. So much exciting work has been going on in our Sustainable Schools Initiative, which you will find more about in this newsletter. Our goal is to display these interesting achievements, and provide you with a selection of stories, events, news, and resources, to keep everyone up to date on what has been happening.

The year 2017 has been declared as the “Year of Giving” by his highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Choosing this theme reflects the country’s approach of philanthropy and giving with no return that it has adopted ever since its creation. The culture of “giving” has been established as a society approach, reflecting its morals and values.

“When people speak about achievements, we are proud of following the humanitarian approach of the late Shaikh Zayed, and when people speak about their history, we speak about the history of the humanitarian achievements since the establishment of the country.” His highness Sheikh Khalifa said. It is our duty to continue to carry on the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed, who laid the great values of giving and charity work, as one of the main principles of the country’s values.

Vice president and prime minister of the UAE, and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed Al Maktoum, has ordered the establishment of a framework for the implementation of the “Year of Giving”. In addition, to set out targets, promote volunteer work, and create a culture of social responsibility.

Businesses have been urged to take part in the “Year of Giving”. EAD has already generously been giving to the society, especially in the environmental, social, and educational fields, not to mention a great portion of EAD’s work is “giving”, and its doors are always open to volunteers.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to sharing your stories in our upcoming newsletters.

**Sustainable Schools Team**  
**Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi**

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## Green School Audit

The Green School Audit, a component of the Sustainable Schools Initiative, is a measuring tool that assists school communities in analyzing and assessing their consumption of natural resources. These natural resources are divided into 5 components, which include air, water, land, energy, and waste. This audit is a “self-assessment” method that allows schools to determine their status, in terms of the environmental standards mentioned in the manual. It is a great tool that participating schools can use to keep track of their resource consumption, and environmental impact. This audit is a “hands-on” environmental audit, allowing students to be involved in monitoring, analyzing, and designing solutions.

As the Environment Agency continues to provide Green School Audit workshops, it is not always convenient for participating schools to attend these workshops. As a result, and in the effort of making this training more practical, the Sustainable Schools Initiative has developed a set of educational films, which can be used as a reference for participating schools. Each of these clips highlights one of the 5 components in detail, and addresses some useful mitigation strategies for each component.



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## Green School Audit

The **Air Audit** video provides participating schools with an understanding of how their methods of commuting to and from school can affect air quality. It also highlights some methods of reducing their emissions.

The **Energy Audit** video covers a list of tasks required, which include identifying energy sources in school, measuring energy consumption, and checking schools' progress in conserving energy.

For the **Water Audit** video, an understanding of water consumption measurements, calculating amounts of wastewater, how much is reused or recycled, and methods of water conservation are provided.

The **land Audit** video focuses on mapping the schools' green areas, as well as identifying existing biodiversity. Some of the tasks set for this audit include calculating the amounts and types of fertilizers used, as well as measuring the green areas in schools, which should cover at least 10% of the school's area.

Moving on to the **Waste Audit** Video, instructions on measuring generated waste are provided. The video also offers methods of reducing waste through segregation, reusing, and recycling.

To watch these videos please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX26KTBYNhgpoilHabq04wthislink>



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## Green School Audit

While this concept may continue to be viewed as an extracurricular activity, the Green School Audit can help integrate greening into the school curriculum. The novelty of such programs lies in the fact that it is not only restricted to textbooks, but is far beyond that.



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## SSI Cleanup Campaign



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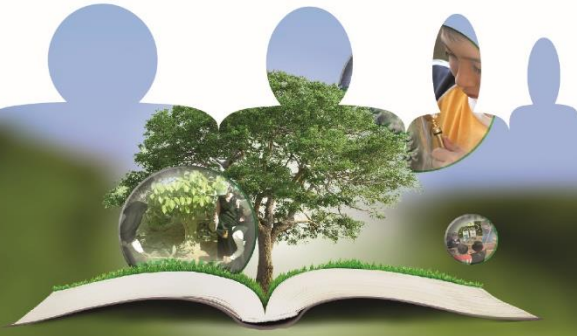
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### SSI Cleanup Campaign

The SSI campaigns are intended to empower and inspire members of the community, in an effort to conserve the environment. These campaigns bring together students, businesses, and partners in a range of activities that positively improve the local environment.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2017, EAD organized the third SSI campaign, under the theme “Reclaiming Our Climate”. The purpose of this campaign was to raise awareness on the benefits of the Ghaf Tree, a plant declared as the national tree of the country, and classified as a “keystone” species in the UAE desert.



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### SSI Cleanup Campaign

Some of the campaign's objectives included: engaging students with government entities, reduce the UAEs "Ecological Footprint", and improve the local environment in a fun and effective way. The campaign took place at Al Salamat Forest in Al Ain, and welcomed over 70 attendees including students, EAD partners, supporters, and media. Students were given a safety briefing before starting the campaign, and were then distributed into teams of five, to begin their planting session. The campaign ended with a group photo, debriefing session from EAD, and distribution of certificates.



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## SSI Cleanup Campaign

The Ghaf tree plays a vital role in the region. It is drought-tolerant, beneficial for the soil, does not require much water, not to mention its importance in enhancing air quality, through sequestering large amounts of Carbon Dioxide.

Each Ghaf tree planted can sequester up to 17 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Around 50 trees were planted in this campaign, meaning that an estimated 850 Kg would be sequestered throughout the year. Additionally, Ghaf seedlings were distributed among students, to take back and plant at their schools.



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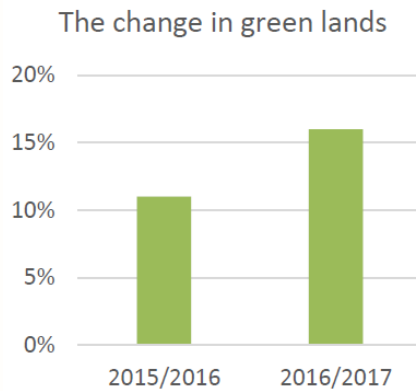
### SSI Tales

#### Al Foa School:

One of the participating schools in the Sustainable Schools Initiative. In the latest Green Audit report submitted by the school, it was mentioned that a new method of irrigation was being implemented in the school. Previously, the school was using the drip irrigation system but recently it has shifted to a new method known as the porous pipe irrigation system. In this technique, the pipes are present underground as opposed to above the ground, in the case of drip irrigation.

It has been recorded that the school's green areas have increased by 16% after shifting to this method, and the amount of water consumed per hour decreased by 75%. The drip irrigation system consumes 32.4 liters/hour, whereas the porous pipe irrigation system consumes as little as 8.4 liters/hour.

The school has attained some very impressive results thanks to this new method of irrigation. Firstly, the porous pipe irrigation system gave the area a more aesthetic appearance than the drip irrigation, due to the absence of external pipes and extensions above ground. Additionally, large amounts of evaporated water are created from pipes used in drip irrigation, while in the case of the porous pipe irrigation system, evaporated water is absent. Furthermore, the quality of plant growth improved significantly, and crops in very good conditions were harvested within three months of using the porous pipe irrigation system.



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### SSI Tales

#### Al Khatim School:

A lead school in the Sustainable School Initiative (SSI), Al Khatim School organized an event back in February, in the occasion of National Environment Day. The event took place in Al Khatim Park, where nearly 600 visitors turned up, including students and teachers from different schools, as well as members from Al Wathba Municipality and the Centre of Waste Management.

Activities covered during the event include plays, environmental competitions, and awareness workshops that were organized by over 250 students. These workshops covered topics on waste, organic fertilizers, water, and energy, and focused on how to live more sustainably and economically.

Visitors had a great time and enjoyed all the activities, especially Al Wathba Municipality manager who promised to provide continuous support to Al Khatim School in organizing such events, for promoting environmental awareness.



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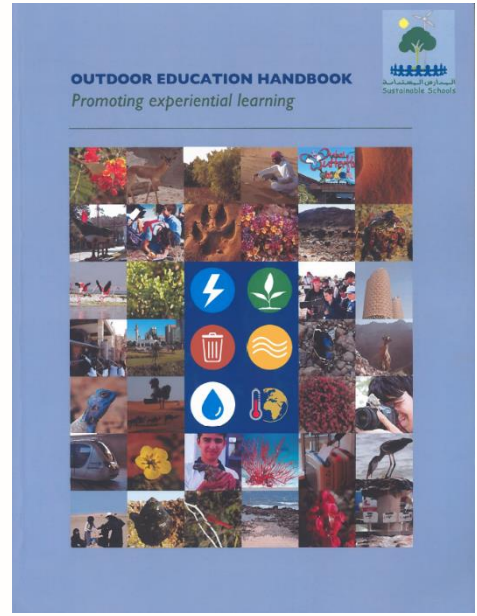
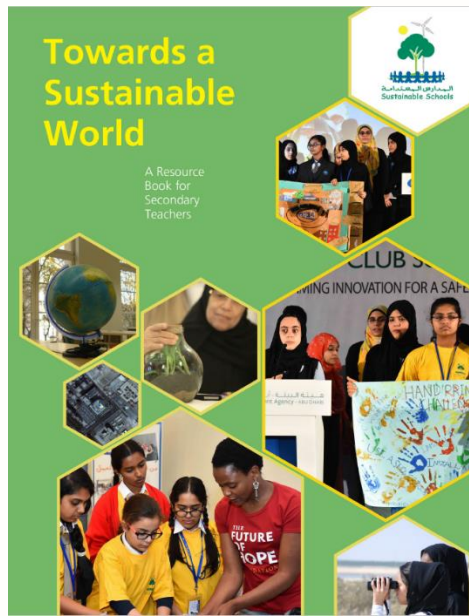
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### Resources

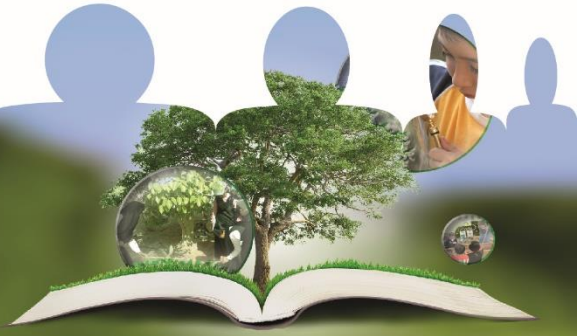
In our previous edition, we promised you some new upcoming resources. In the occasion of UAE National Environment Day, which was on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, these resources have been distributed among UAE schools. Resources include Outdoor Education Handbook “Promoting experiential learning”, Towards a Sustainable World, and UAE’s Marine Species & Habitat brief.

The Outdoor Education Handbook highlights the importance of experiential learning. While theoretical learning can be forgettable, experiential learning has the power of inspiring individuals, making it an unforgettable learning method. The saying “I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand” indicates that the best education of all comes from “hands on” learning. ‘Towards a Sustainable World’ encourages secondary teachers to integrate sustainability into their students’ curriculum, and guides them towards linking environmental concepts to their subjects, in a new and creative way.



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### Resources

UAE's Marine Species & Habitat brief is a book directed to students aged 8-12 years, to help infuse the importance of protecting our beautiful sea creatures. The book provides a pleasant and enjoyable reading for older students too.

In addition to these resources, we created a poster of a very precious and valuable tree to the UAE, the "Ghaf Tree", which highlights some interesting facts of this plant.

### GHAF TREES

المدراس المستدامة Sustainable Schools

### Know about UAE's MARINE SPECIES

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## SSI and IRENA



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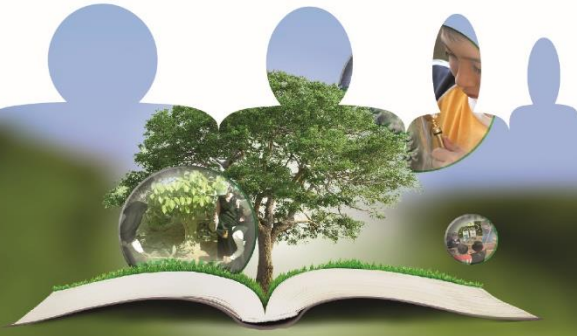


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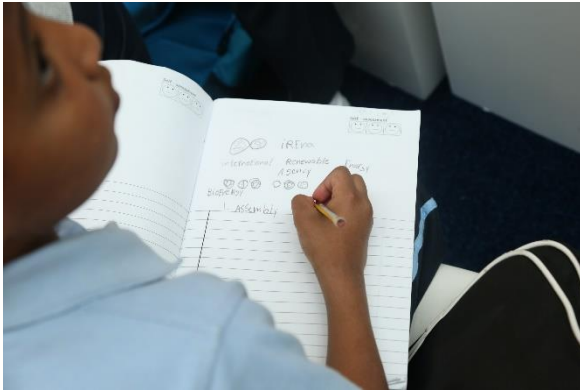
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### SSI and IRENA

The international Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organization that promotes the adoption of all forms of renewable energy in a sustainable manner. As the youngest and fastest growing organization, IRENA serves as the principal platform for knowledge in sustainability and renewable energy.

IRENA and EAD share a similar vision of developing innovative potential in youth, and unleashing their creativity in the implementation of sustainable practices. Given EAD's strong engagement with youth, IRENA proposed to invite students involved in the "Sustainable Schools Initiative" and "Sustainable Campus Initiative", in an effort to engage with the younger generation, and promote sustainability.



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### SSI and IRENA

With IRENA's active involvement with youth, and its efforts in educating them on the world's biggest environmental challenges and the importance of cooperation for a sustainable future, IRENA has been continuously supporting EAD's initiatives, and is always eager to assist in engaging youth and encouraging future leaders to tackle careers in the field of environment and sustainability.

In the occasion of World Future Energy Summit (WFES), IRENA participated in delivering a presentation on their work and renewable energy. The event took place at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

64 students got a chance to visit IRENA's booth where they received an informative presentation on IRENA, got a chance to learn about trainee programs and internships provided, and attended an interactive session with one of IRENA's representatives.



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### Roots&Shoots

#### JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE - ROOTS AND SHOOTS PROGRAMME

A program that aims to bring together youth from preschool to university, to contribute towards environmental and humanitarian issues.

At the beginning of this year, the third annual Roots & Shoots ceremony took place in Abu Dhabi, which was hosted by the founder herself Dr. Jane Goodall. Thirteen participating schools gathered to display their work, and present a variety of songs/plays/films they had created, which showcased their efforts in conserving the environment. Goodall addressed the students and shared some stories of her life's work, including highlights of her most unique experiences. Additionally, she stressed on the importance of maintaining hope and positivity, despite the growing threats to our environment.



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## Roots&Shoots

### JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE - ROOTS AND SHOOTS PROGRAMME

Three new resources are now available on the Roots & Shoots website, click here: [website](#), which include 'Urban Resources', 'Reuse and Recycle: my PET project' and 'Roots & Shoots around the world'.

To join Roots & Shoots, please sign up [here](#).



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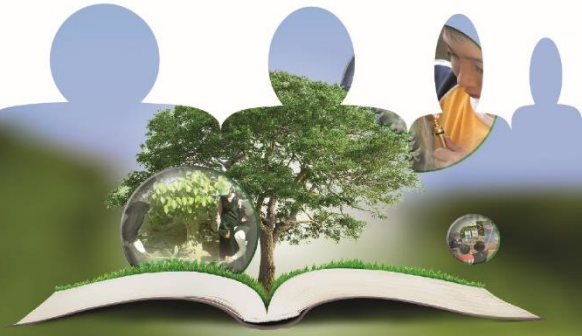


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## World Water Day (W W D)

Marked on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, this day is an international day to celebrate fresh water and recognize the need of taking action towards the water crisis around the world. World Water Day (WWD) was officially declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, and has been celebrated annually ever since. With a different theme each year, this year's theme is "Wastewater".

Large amounts of wastewater produced in our homes, cities, and industries are returned back to nature without being reused or treated. This leads to the pollution of the environment and the loss of valuable nutrients and other materials. Around 663 million people lack access to safe drinking water, and an alarming 2.4 billion people live without access to improved sanitation.

The treatment and collection of wastewater needs to be improved, and the quantity of wastewater produced must be reduced. Improvement of wastewater is a step towards achieving goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. This includes increasing water reuse and recycling, and halving the proportion of untreated wastewater.

This day is an opportunity to get involved, show all your work done, and share your success stories towards contributing to water conservation.

We need to reduce and reuse water, rather than waste it. Greywater produced in our houses can be reused for our gardens. Wastewater produced in our cities can be reused for green areas, and in the agricultural and industrial sector, discharged water can be used for irrigation and cooling systems. By preserving this valuable resource, we will enhance the water cycle and increase its quality.

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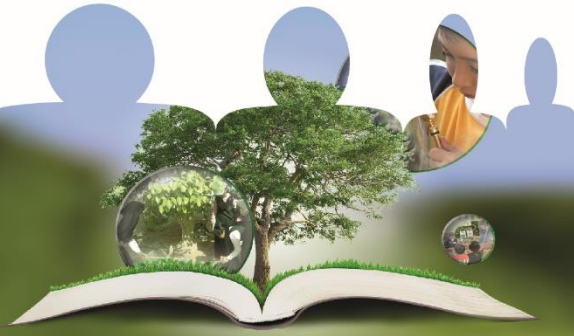


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### World Water Day (W W D)

**WHY WASTE WATER?**  
OVER 80% OF OUR WASTEWATER FLOWS BACK TO NATURE UNTREATED.

INSTEAD OF WASTING IT, WE NEED TO  
**REDUCE AND REUSE WASTEWATER, AND MAKE THE WATER CYCLE WORK BETTER FOR EVERY LIVING THING.**

22 MARCH  
WORLD WATER DAY

Help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 - safe water and sanitation for everyone by 2030 - by taking the pressure of untreated wastewater off our cities and communities, while increasing our water efficiency.

World Water Day 2017 - Wastewater  
www.worldwaterday.org

**WHY WASTE WATER?**  
OVER 80% OF OUR WASTEWATER FLOWS BACK TO NATURE UNTREATED.

Safely treated and reused wastewater in agriculture  
protects farmers and consumers, promotes  
food security and improves health and well-being.

22 MARCH  
WORLD WATER DAY

Sustainable Development Goal Target 6.4 to safely treat and reuse of wastewater will help achieve the SDGs on health and well-being.

World Water Day 2017 - Wastewater  
www.worldwaterday.org

**WHY WASTE WATER?**  
OVER 80% OF OUR WASTEWATER FLOWS BACK TO NATURE UNTREATED.

**REDUCE:** Improve wastewater treatment to reduce pollutants entering the ecosystem.

**REUSE:** treat and use wastewater for green space irrigation and municipal cleaning.

22 MARCH  
WORLD WATER DAY

Help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 - safe water and sanitation for everyone by 2030 - by taking the pressure of untreated wastewater and increasing water recycling and safe reuse.

World Water Day 2017 - Wastewater  
www.worldwaterday.org

**WHY WASTE WATER?**  
OVER 80% OF OUR WASTEWATER FLOWS BACK TO NATURE UNTREATED.

**REDUCE:** turn off the tap and avoid putting rubbish, oils and chemicals down the drain.

**REUSE:** collect greywater for irrigating gardens or washing vehicles.

22 MARCH  
WORLD WATER DAY

Help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 - safe water and sanitation for everyone by 2030 - by taking the pressure of untreated wastewater and increasing water recycling and safe reuse.

World Water Day 2017 - Wastewater  
www.worldwaterday.org

**WHY WASTE WATER?**  
OVER 80% OF OUR WASTEWATER FLOWS BACK TO NATURE UNTREATED.

**REUSE:** treat and use wastewater for general washing, irrigation or production.

**REDUCE:** use water more efficiently and decrease pollutants entering the water cycle.

22 MARCH  
WORLD WATER DAY

Help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 - safe water and sanitation for everyone by 2030 - by taking the pressure of untreated wastewater and increasing water recycling and safe reuse.

World Water Day 2017 - Wastewater  
www.worldwaterday.org

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## Upcoming Events

### SSI Evaluation:

Evaluation of the SSI awards goes through three stages of evaluation. During the first stage, all reports received are shortlisted to 48 reports. In stage 2 these reports are further shortlisted to 24 reports, consisting of all 5 categories of the award. In the third and final stage, an external committee is asked to evaluate and reveal the best 3 reports for each category.

- The Green School Audit category will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of April.
- Eco Club Award will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April.
- The Field Trip category will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.
- Training of the Trainer category will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.
- Finally, the Lead School category will take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April.

### SSI Award Ceremony:

The Sustainable Schools Awards is a platform to recognize schools that have obtained excellence in delivering the initiative's requirements. Schools that receive these awards are acknowledged for having undertaken and implemented part of or all the four components of the initiative in the most appropriate manner. Schools eligible to win are those that have undertaken SSI tasks in a systematic, creative, and innovative approach, in an effort to attain excellence. While doing so, it is believed that, they would have managed to achieve a holistic and a sustainable outcome for their schools. It is important that these schools show a strong student centric approach in all the relevant components to be considered for the awards.

Our upcoming SSI ceremony will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May.

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## Upcoming Events

### Eco Club Summit:

An annual event that provides a unique platform for Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) students, to share their sustainability achievements and practices with each other. In this event, students are given the opportunity to network with each other and get the chance to learn from all the different activities run by SSI.

Our upcoming event will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of April. Students will be given the opportunity to meet inspiring youth, who have turned their passion towards sustainability into action. The event will also provide sessions for teachers, which include an environmental journey through maps and the potential of geospatial portal as an aiding tool in teaching. In addition to workshop sessions that will go on both days of the event.

We look forward to hosting all our members of the SSI and hope for yet another successful event!



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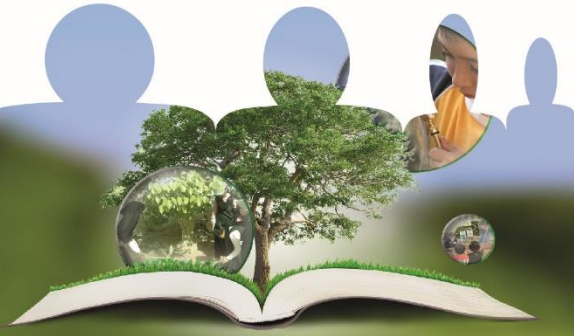


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### Upcoming Events

#### Eco Club Summit:



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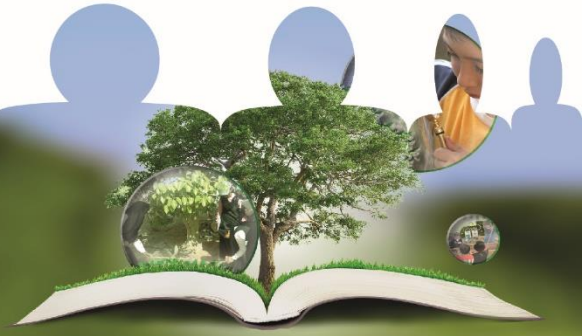


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## Year of Giving

SSI is all about giving to the environment. Through this initiative, students are coached on becoming environmentally responsible individuals, by keeping an eye on environmental issues in their community. Strong environmental behavior and ethics are also delivered amongst students and their families, to take the necessary actions towards achieving sustainability.

Training and resource materials, which are entirely free of charge, are provided to teachers, in order to convey effective environmental education in their classrooms. Students from registered schools are also provided with guides on setting up and running eco clubs, not to mention the great opportunities to experience 'hands-on' field trips, as well as being empowered to reach out to the community.



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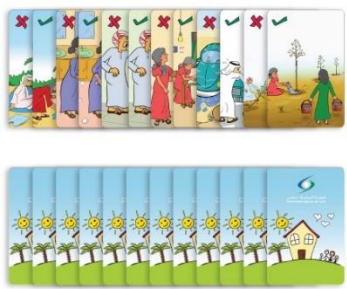
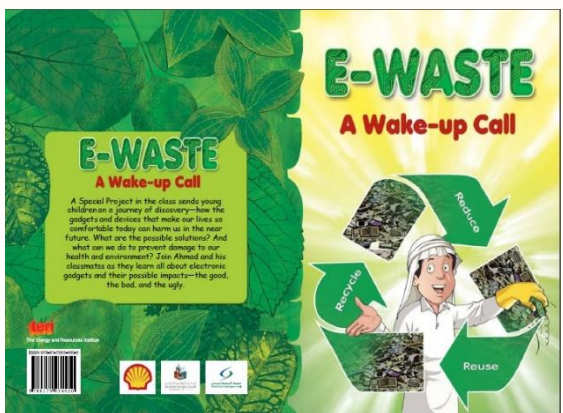
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### Year of Giving

In commemoration of the “Year of Giving”, EAD supported the reading initiative of H.H Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, by providing supporting materials that were sent to children in hospital. These materials included “The Wonders of the UAE” coloring books, E-Waste comic books, “Love my Environment” card game, and a 77-piece “Mangroves are Protective and Productive” puzzle game.



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We look forward for your comments and feedback about  
our newsletter

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