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Greetings fellow Environmental Warriors!

The second quarter of the year has passed by very fast with so many interesting activities that have kept us all excited and engaged. The Environment Agency's educational team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been a part of this truly remarkable journey. This includes our participating schools, students, teachers, partners and sponsors, whose support and participation is highly appreciated. It is thanks to you that we are able to continue on our path towards a more sustainable future. Keep up your amazing work and don't stop, as we still have a long way to go on our sustainability journey!

Looking back on where we began in 2009, it is overwhelming how far we have come. The increase in the number of government and private schools (both teachers and students) participating in the SSI programme is outstanding.

The involvement of school management, teachers and students in all areas of sustainability is noteworthy, not forgetting their creative ideas in contributing to innovation techniques.

Highpoints of the 7th Session of SSI:

- Water consumption per capita/day in schools **decreased** from 32.7 liters in 2015 to 25.88 liters in 2017
- Students travelling with shared transport **increased** from 70% in 2015 to 73% in 2017
- Energy consumption per capita /day **decreased** from 57 in 2015 to 47 mega joule in 2017
- Schools green area **increased** from 7% in 2015 to 9% in 2017
- Waste generation **decreased** from 99 in 2015 to 55 grams per capita /day in 2017
- Use of native plants for greening, use of renewable energy, use of energy efficient equipment, re-use of grey water has significantly **increased** in schools

In this edition we present to you the most important activities and achievements for this quarter. These include highlights of the 4th Eco Club Summit, Sustainable Schools Excellence Award Ceremony, SSI winners' stories and a lot more.

It can only get better! Together we can make the world more sustainable and more environmentally friendly – starting with our beloved homeland.

Not wanting to give any more away, we will leave you to enjoy the contents of this edition.

Do remember to share it with as many people as you can to help spread the good work of our initiatives, as this will also help us to spread the word about the importance of environmental education in the field of sustainable development.

Sustainable Schools Team
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

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4th ECO CLUB SUMMIT

On the 12th and 13th of April, the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi hosted its fourth Eco Club Summit.

This event provides a unique platform for Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) students to share their sustainability achievements and practices with each other. The theme of this year's event "The Power of Sustainable Giving" was chosen as part of the Year of Giving, to promote the spirit of giving back to the environment.

Over 247 students and 110 teachers from 120 schools participated in this year's Eco Club Summit. The event hosted 5 international speakers, who shared their stories with SSI students on how they transformed their passion towards the environment, into actions. Amongst these speakers was Dr. Philippe Pypaert, Programme Specialist who coordinates major environmental programmes of UNESCO. Other speakers included Omnih Al Hajeri, Lead Officer, Department of Municipal Affairs and Transport, Arslan Khalid, Associate Programme Officer at the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and Hanan Al Sammak, Co-Founder and Vice President of Heart Masters.

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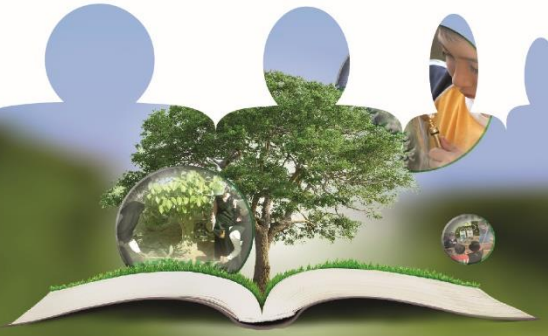


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4th ECO CLUB SUMMIT

Additionally, 6 workshops were organized for the students including a Photography workshop, Mapping Water Quality workshop, and Air Quality workshop. Students were then given the opportunity to showcase what they had learnt in these workshops, in their own creative way.

Through this event, students displayed 348 internal and external projects, to raise environmental awareness in their schools and communities.

During the summit, schools were honored for their participation in the SSI, and for their outstanding results that have contributed to significant changes.



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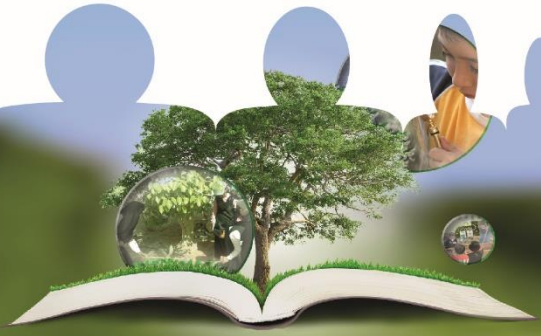


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4th ECO CLUB SUMMIT Photos



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Sustainable Schools Excellence Award Ceremony 2017

This event honors all the schools that have made a considerable effort in their journey towards sustainability as part of the “Sustainable Schools Initiative”. The event, which takes place once every two years, recognizes the results of the participating schools’ hard work, in terms of their environmental performance.

A total of 93 entries were received, 55 of them were shortlisted, and out of those shortlisted, 24 winners were selected in 5 different categories.

These categories include:

- Green School Audit
- Eco Clubs
- Field Trips
- Lead Schools,
- Training of Trainer (TOT)

On the 9th of May, the SSI Award Ceremony took place at the Fairmont Bab Al Bahr Hotel to reveal the long-awaited results and announce the winners. All shortlisted schools attended, and everyone was anxious and excited to hear the results. Among the attendees was Dr. Jaber Al Jaberi, EAD’s Deputy Secretary General; Dr. Abdulla Zamzam, EAD’s Assistant Secretary General - Operations, Corporate Services Sector; Eng. Khaled Al Ansari, Division Manager of School Services of the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) and Salem Bin Ashour, President and General Manager for BP UAE.

The long wait was finally over and results were announced!

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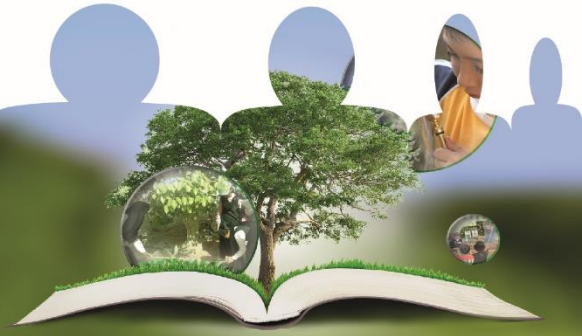


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Sustainable Schools Excellence Award Ceremony 2017

Lead School Category-Government Schools:

- First Place: Al Talee'a School – Abu Dhabi
- Second Place: Al Khatim School- Al Ain
- Third Place: Qatr Al Nada School – Al Dhafra

Lead School Category-Private Schools:

- First Place: Award blocked
- Second Place: Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Banglادish Islamia Private School– Abu Dhabi
- Third Place: Islamia English School
- Third place: Abu Dhabi Indian School-Abu Dhabi

Best Green Audit Category- Government Schools:

- First Place: Al Samha School – Abu Dhabi
- Second Place: Al Montaha School – Abu Dhabi

Best Green Audit Category- Private Schools:

- First Place: The Philippine Global School – Abu Dhabi
- Second Place: Al Bateen Scientific Private School- Abu Dhabi

Best Community Outreach Category-Government Schools:

- First Place: Al Montaha School – Abu Dhabi
- Second Place: Um Al Arab School – Abu Dhabi
- Third Place: Al Huiteen School- Al Dhafra

Best Community Outreach Category-Private Schools:

- First Place: Bright Riders School- Abu Dhabi
- Second Place: International Community School- Abu Dhabi
- Third Place: Al Ekhlass Private School- Abu Dhabi



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Sustainable Schools Excellence Award Ceremony 2017

Best Environmental Educational Category-Government Schools:

First Place: Al Refa School – Al Ain

Second Place: Al Resala School – Al Ain

Best Environmental Educational Category-Private Schools:

First Place: Mayoor School- Abu Dhabi

Second Place: Award Blocked

Best Outdoor Education Category-Government Schools:

First place: Rooh Al Etihad- Abu Dhabi

Second Place: Award Blocked

Best Outdoor Education Category-Private Schools:

First Place: Abu Dhabi Indian School – Branch 1

Second Place: Al Manhal International Private School – Abu Dhabi

Congratulations to all the winners! Here's to many more successful years of great achievements towards the environment.

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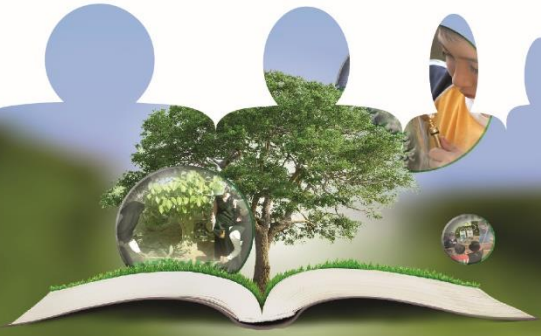


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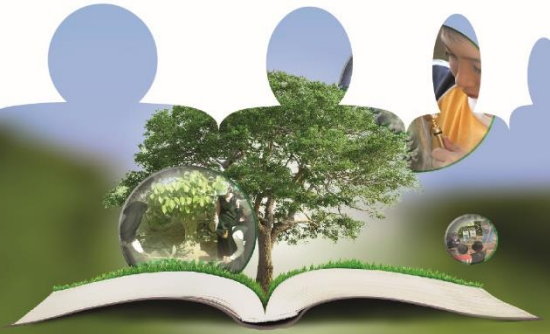


Sustainable Schools Excellence Award Ceremony 2017



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Sustainable Schools Excellence Award Ceremony 2017



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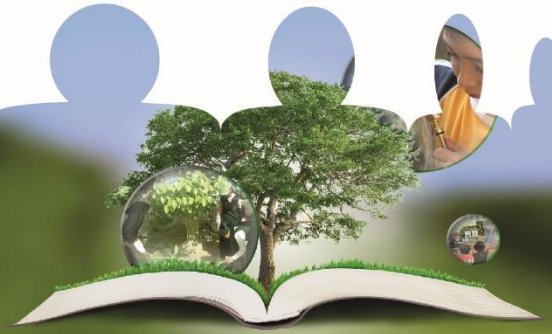


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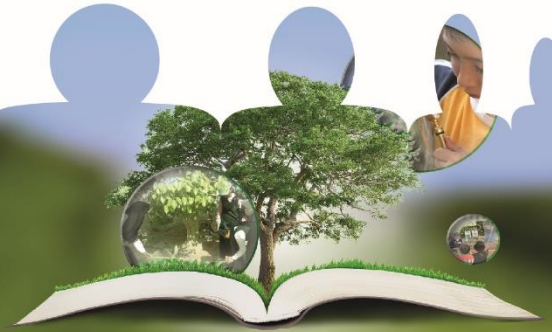


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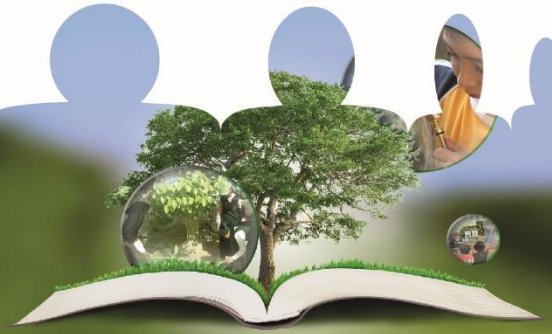


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Sustainable Schools Excellence Award Ceremony 2017

جائزة أفضل مدرسة في مجال المعلم البيئي الفعال
Best Environmental Educator Award

مدرسة ماييور
Mayoor School



جائزة أفضل مدرسة في مجال المعلم البيئي الفعال
Best Environmental Educator Award

مدرسة الرفعة
Al Refa'a School



جائزة أفضل مدرسة في مجال المعلم البيئي الفعال
Best Environmental Educator Award

مدرسة الرسالة
AL Resala School



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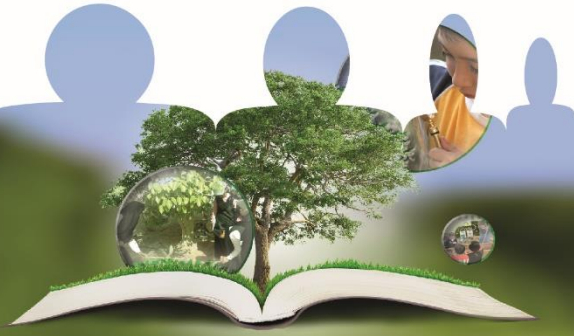


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Sustainable Schools Excellence Award Ceremony 2017



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Sustainable schools success stories

Best Green Audit Category- Private Schools:

First Place: The Philippine Global School – Abu Dhabi

The school won second place last year. This school's green area did not exceed 10% last year, but through a very creative project it has been working on throughout the year, it managed to increase its green areas using sustainable methods. This project is the "biodome", which is powered by solar energy and uses minimal amounts of water. This dome maintains appropriate temperatures for the growth of plants through its solar fans that release hot air and provide a cool climate that suits the growth of plants.

From last year's winning earnings, they managed to increase their biodome they have created by 75%. This dome is a unique educational site to learn about sustainable agriculture, sustainable energy, and the generation of non-polluting energy, a concept that can be linked to the issue of climate change and the reduction of carbon emissions. Through this project, students are also taught how to reduce water consumption and recycling.

This dome contributed to the increase of biodiversity in the school, and the school's green area has reached 30%.

Some of the school's contributions towards the environment include 1057 students use shared transportation, and since last year, the school has managed to reduce its energy consumption by 53%, and reduce its monthly generation of waste from 800Kg to 400 Kg. Some of its future plans: Install an aquaponics system, motion and thermal sensors, and solar panels for biodome.



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Sustainable schools success stories

Best Community Outreach Category-Government Schools:

First Place: Al Montaha School – Abu Dhabi

This school has implemented two remarkable projects, one internal and another external reaching out to the community. The internal project was “Say No to Chemical Detergents” This school has shifted from the use of chemical detergents to effective natural cleaners, and linked the environment to health and safety. The school cleaners also became aware of the topic and were trained how to use environmentally friendly detergents.

The external project targeted residents in the area of Mussafah East 12 to raise their awareness about techniques that contribute to reducing the use of water in homes. The school carefully analysed the situation on water consumption, and parents were offered displacement bags to be placed under the toilets that help save 6 litres of water on every flush. It is a plastic bag tightly sealed with water, and placed in old packing boxes with a capacity exceeding 12 litres with each use.

Around 30 families took part in this project, and as part of its future plan, it aims to target all residents of Musaffah area, which will contribute to saving 598349 gallons per day.

Due to the great success of this project, its story was covered by local media



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Sustainable schools success stories

Best Environmental Educational Category-Private Schools:

First Place: Mayoor School- Abu Dhabi

The school has showed improvement in managing air, water, land, energy, and waste in comprehension to previous years. Yet the school has an eco-club that discusses environmental issues. Teachers and other staff are always involved in the community, and all of the events are certified, and recorded.

The trainer of the trainer program is what Mayoor school has shown extraordinary efforts in as they organized 5 workshops attended by 5 teachers. Also, there was an online course that was attended by a couple of trainers, and the training was connected with some subjects in the curriculum. The workshops were shared with 75 teachers, and were certified with photos, and reports. The school also involved the students in field trips to several places which are Al Wathba wetland reserve in Abu Dhabi, and Falcon Hospital.



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Sustainable schools success stories

Best Outdoor Education Category-Government Schools:

First place: Rooh Al Etihad- Abu Dhabi

This school has received considerable support from Al Khatim School. Its environmental trips address many issues such as flora and fauna biological diversity. The school's plan was to achieve 25% of environmental trips; however, it has managed to reach 29%.

Some of the school's environmental trips:

* Al Khatim Park: "The Forum of Sustainability" The purpose of this trip was to revive the National Environment Day. This trip was linked to some subjects such as science and music. The target group was primary and kindergarten students.

* Al Wathba Park: The aim of this trip was to introduce students to the different species of animals and plants in the area. This trip was linked to some of the students' subjects including science and social sciences, and the target group was primary school students.

The school has been able to spread environmental awareness significantly, through the practical application of educational curricula in line with the strategies of the twenty-first century. In addition, the school was able to increase the percentage of awareness trips in Al Falah area through the environmental club team, and increase the number of trips that serve the curriculum and the Sustainable Schools Initiative.



To read the rest of the Sustainable Schools success stories visit : sustainableschools@ead.ae



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Some exciting news!

As you all know, the Roots and Shoots programme aims to bring together youth from preschool to university, to contribute towards environmental and humanitarian issues.

Back in April, the Roots and Shoots Program announced that it was offering a very exciting opportunity for a student to be recommended to a 4 year international programme on sustainable development in Taiwan.

The purpose of this program is to equip students with interdisciplinary knowledge of environmental sustainability, by embodying the spirit of Roots and Shoots in the hope of finding practical solutions to our environmental challenges.

Those interested had to register their school as part of the Roots & Shoots programme to show that they were active. A number of applications were received by many students eager to take part in this great opportunity.

Good luck to everyone who registered and we look forward to announcing the winner soon!

Link to the program: <http://sites.cjcu.edu.tw/IPSD/home.html>



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World Environment Day

There is no doubt that the protection and improvement of the environment is a major issue, affecting the well-being of people, and the economic development throughout the world.

Every year, World Environment Day is organized according to a theme that focuses on a particularly vital environmental concern. This day, which takes place on the 5th of June, is the biggest annual event for positive action towards the environment. It is a day for everyone, everywhere. The theme for this year is “Connecting People to Nature”, which urges everyone to get outdoors and into nature, and appreciate its importance.

The Education Department in the Environment Agency has organized a campaign to celebrate this day, which took place in the holy month of Ramadan. The purpose of this campaign was to handle food waste, where university youth collected wasted food from some hotels, and transported it to farms for camels and other livestock. Additionally, inedible waste collected was then composted.

You can show your support through exploring your nature, or planning an environmental event. This day is a great opportunity to take positive environmental action. Being part of this day gives everyone the opportunity to share their ideas for making the world greener and cleaner.

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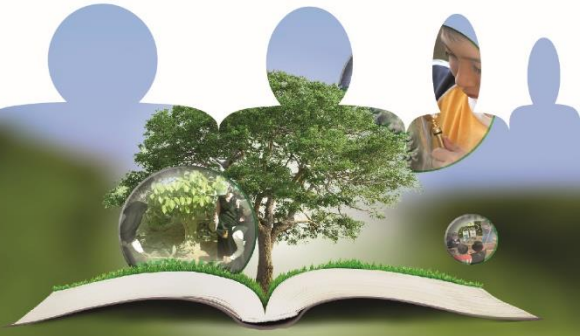


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World Environment Day

You can visit the World Environment Day website <http://www.unep.org/wed/> where you can register an activity that you, your business, school, or workplace have been doing for this day. Also, take a moment to check out the latest news on the environment.

A useful link for this year's theme: <http://worldenvironmentday.global/en/about/connecting-people-nature>



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