

A FORUM FOR EDUCATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY

MULTAQANA



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Dear SSI Members

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) is pleased to welcome you to the latest issue of our newsletter! The Sustainable Schools Initiative programme has witnessed various interesting events and we cannot wait to share them with you in to inspire you and motivate you to do and share with us your achievements.

Twenty eighteen named the "Year of Zayed" by Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed as the year commemorates the passing of 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE. The Year of Zayed focuses on shedding light on the values of the late Sheikh Zayed through local and international projects that honour his vision and values. One of the core values the late Sheikh Zayed is known for is his immense appreciation of the environment and his ambitions to keep the prosperity and sustainability of the environment.

"On land and in the sea, our fore-fathers lived and survived in this environment. They were able to do so because they recognised the need to conserve it, to take from it only what they needed to live, and to preserve it for succeeding generations", Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan.

The responsibility falls on all of us to uphold the values of the late Sheikh Zayed, and the Sustainable Schools Initiative does so by reaching out to youth and developing in them a forward thinking mentality that is ready to tackle environmental issues and concerns.

What EAD has done recently is give the youth the necessary tools so that they can tackle these problems on their own and then come back to EAD with their actions and achievements. With that in mind, EAD is pleased to share with our schools and stakeholders some of these exciting stories in the hope they spark interest and inspiration to others.

We hope you find this issue interesting and cannot wait to have your stories in our future newsletters

Sustainable Schools Team
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD)

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Team Zayed's Expedition to Antarctica

On 23 February 2018 three Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) employees embarked on a trip to Ushuaia to voyage to Antarctica as part of the Climate Force International Antarctic Expedition 2018. The team, aptly called "Team Zayed", consisted of Mariam Al Qassimi, a Communications Specialist, the Mammologist Rashed Al Zaabi and the Marine Policy Manager Winston Cowie.

Team Zayed, along with other teams from over 20 countries, learned about climate change and witnessed first-hand the impact of global warming on the continent for two weeks on a physically demanding journey.

In collaboration with Jane Goodall Institute (<https://www.rootsandshoots.org/>) and Sir Robert Swan's organisation Climate Force 2041 (www.2041.com), EAD recently launched the Climate Force Challenge. This challenge is open to all students in the UAE and encourages them to reduce their carbon footprints as well as document their daily environmental behaviours and efforts for a month.

The winner will have a chance to have excerpts of their diary included in a film and book that Team Zayed hopes to produce after their return from their journey.

Schools or individuals wishing to participate in the Climate Force Challenge are encouraged to visit: www.rootsnshoots.ae



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SSI Online Green School Reporting System

The Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) has launched a portal on its website to display its schools audit reports, which has also been incorporated into an interactive map. The portal also offers students the ability to upload any new data they have gathered from their school directly to the system.

Paper consumption is a growing concern, as the production of paper is environmentally detrimental, and paper can only be recycled a finite number of times. In order to reduce the consumption of paper, the portal offers students an alternative, on-line method to submit their findings.

Students are encouraged to adopt this method and take action to protect our resources.

Using the account details given to them by their school, students can login and upload their data through the portal provided.

HOW TO SUBMIT AUDIT:

Click on the link provided.

http://projme.com/demo/Sustainable_Schools/SSI_Online_Tool/frontend/web/index.php?r=site%2Flogin

The students are prompted to login using the username and password provided to them.

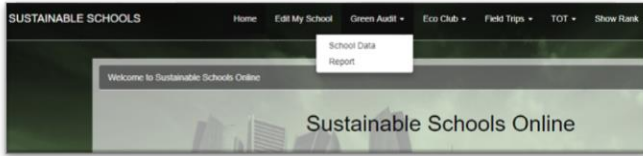


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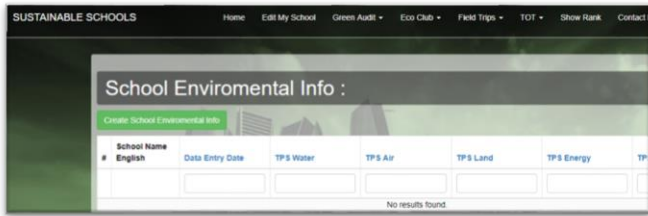
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SSI Online Green School Reporting System

Once logged in, students can upload their audits by clicking on the Green Audit tab, where a drop-down menu will appear.

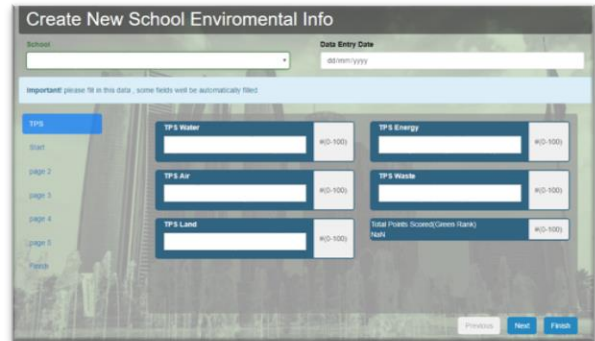


If the student chose the School Data option, the following screen will be displayed. Click on the Create School Environmental Info button

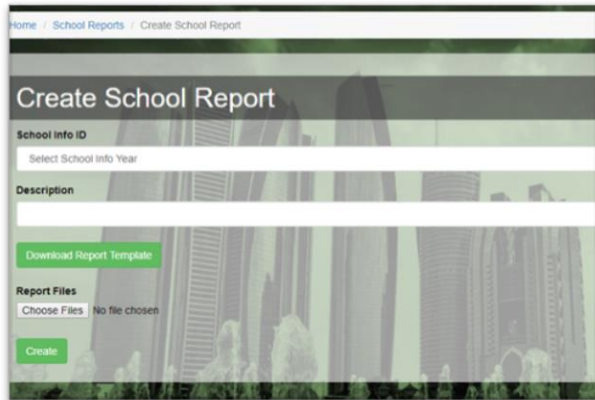


The following will be displayed. Students should enter their data from their audits here. Hovering over any of the empty fields will prompt a text box that has details about the field.

If the student wants to upload a report, click on the Report option.



After writing the description for the report, students can upload through the Choose file option. Students can also download the template required for the report.





Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots

Jane continued her studies and received a PhD despite the many obstacles she faced and ended up proving her doubters wrong, where she is now an acclaimed doctor whose works redefined species conservation.



Nowadays. Dr. Jane travels the world to inspire people to take action to end environmental crises, and in doing so she founded Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots to empower the youth to take action. Roots & Shoots programme is not only concerned with the environment, it includes the creatures that inhabit it.

www.rootsandshoots.org

In 1934, an inspirational woman Jane Goodall was born. Her story begins with a stuffed chimpanzee named Jubilee given to her by her father. Her love for animals, chimpanzees in particular, was born in that moment.

During her life, she struggled with gender discrimination, financial problems and an outdated/rigid mentality of her professors and school colleagues. She started her career working as a secretary in Kenya and gained knowledge through observing the chimpanzees and accompanying wildlife professionals.

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St. Joseph's Roots & Shoots UAE



With that in mind, St. Joseph's school has organised several activities since January of 2017, in order to encourage students to preserve and protect the environment as well as the animals living in it.

Some of the events they planned included the Plant Donation Day, which serves to increase the green area and achieve cleaner air around the school premises, and helping the less fortunate by donating food items to the women's labour camp in Abu Dhabi.

On the 5th June 2017, the students prepared presentations and gave speeches to promote sustainability to the youth. They also held a show where students showed off dresses made out of recycled materials.

The school took a group of students on a field trip to Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital (ADFH) to meet and learn about the UAE's National Bird.

St. Joseph's school formed an Eco Club by the name "Verte" in 2002 with the objective of encouraging the whole-school to take action for the environment. It was not long before they joined the Roots & Shoots UAE programme as their goals align with one another.

"Can Collection Campaign" for recycling from 10th September to 25th October 2017. The collected waste cans were given to Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), Dubai for recycling.

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Al Wathba Photography Competition

Al Wathba Photography competition is back for its fourth year, and it will run from the 19th November 2017 to 30th April 2018. Interested photographers can participate in either one of the two categories:

1. Amateur Photographers category
2. Professional Photographers category

Participants are permitted to submit two entries.

Participation is by following the EAD community Instagram account @EAD_Community and uploading the photographs while mentioning the hashtag #snapalwathba in the caption.

Al Wathba reserve is open to the public on Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 AM to 2 PM. Teachers interested in arranging field trips should send an email to sustainableschools@ead.ae, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are dedicated to school groups only.

More details can be found in the link below:

<https://www.ead.ae/pages/al-wathba-photography-competition4.aspx>



Outdoor Environmental Educational Field Trips

JEBEL HAFEET, AL AIN

Jebel Hafeet stands as the highest peak of the Emirate, second in the whole of UAE. This monument is located in Al Ain, around 170km east of Abu Dhabi city.

The mountain contains major fossil discoveries and embraces a wide variety of fauna and flora, but these species are threatened by human development around it. This is why it now considered a protected area, and a management plan is being undertaken to ensure its sustainability.

Interested students can learn about Jebel Hafeet using the Environmental Atlas of Abu Dhabi:

<https://www.environmentalatlas.ae/geographicInheritance/coastAndMountains>

Through this trip, students will be able to learn about the country's history as well as geography of the land. Students can learn about the importance of protecting and preserving our environment.



Teachers can merge concepts achieved from this trip in many subjects, including:

History: Teachers can teach about the Bronze Age that occurred thousands of years ago, how people lived back then and so on.

Geography: Students would understand the link between natural landmarks and human development and the importance of preserving cultural sites. Higher-level students can study the different minerals and rocks found around Jebel Hafeet and learn how to identify and differentiate between them.

Science: Teachers can introduce the rock cycle as a learning outcome of the trip, to teach students how the different types of rocks are formed. Students can also learn the constituents of rocks, and therefore; the properties of those rocks.

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Outdoor Environmental Educational Field Trips

Trip Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the effect of urban development on mountainous areas.
- Understand the importance of preserving the environment and biodiversity.
- Learn how to identify different types of rocks.

Post-Trip Activity: What Kind of Rock is it?

Materials required: Ziploc bags to collect rock samples, magnifying lenses, labelling strips for the bags, markers, activity sheets and magnets.

Teachers can divide the class into groups, where they are instructed to collect a number of rocks of different shapes and colours. The students are given activity sheets to note the various physical features of the rocks they have collected.

Teaches students how rocks are formed of minerals and that those minerals determine the features of the rocks.

Shams Power Company, Abu Dhabi

Another location schools can take their students to is the Shams Power Company.

As the name suggests, “Shams” (meaning Sun in Arabic) is a power station that uses solar heat as its source of energy. The station is currently employing 768 parabolic trough collectors that use the Sun’s heat to generate clean energy.



Students will be given the opportunity to observe how concentrated power plants work and the mechanisms behind it. Unlike Masdar City, where you can see the end use of the energy generated, Shams Power Company demonstrates how the energy is collected and converted.

The purpose of the trip is to educate students on how parabolic trough collector’s work and the entire process of generating renewable energy from the Sun. Higher level students could look at prospective career choices to better help them in choosing majors in college/university.

continued 

Outdoor Environmental Educational Field Trips

The subjects that can benefit from the trip include:

Geography: Students will learn about how the geography of the land affects where and how solar plants are built, and they can learn how to evaluate a land to see whether it is suitable to sustain a solar plant.

History: Teachers can talk about how previous societies used to get energy from, and their lifestyles in terms with the environment around them.

Trip Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding the need to switch to renewable energy sources.
- Understanding the mechanisms behind how parabolic trough collectors work.
- Assisting students in deciding on their career choices in the sustainability sector.

Post-trip activity: Building a solar oven

Students can make a solar cooker and test it out with simple recipes. Teachers can divide students into groups where they can get instructions from the internet to build the cooker. Students can then find a spot where the sunlight hits for a few hours and place their ovens with food. They can collect the temperature using a thermometer and they can calculate how long it took to cook the food.

Contact Information:

Teachers can coordinate a field trip with a representative who will then supply the school with the date for the trip to Shams Power. A guide will be there to escort students around the facility.

Mrs. Eman Al Tamimi
Phone: 02 894 6006
E-mail: ealtamimi@shampower.ae



SHAMS
Power Company

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Outdoor Environmental Educational Field Trips

Center for Waste Management (CWM), Abu Dhabi

It is important to instill in children from a young age the significance of recycling waste and understanding how the waste we generate affects the environment around us. Students can see firsthand how waste is generally disposed of in landfills and the detrimental effects this action has on the environment and human health. Students can also learn about the process of waste recycling and its benefits over throwing it in the trash.

Through this trip, students will be able to learn what happens to the waste they recycle which can make them more motivated to recycle more and consume less products.

Teachers can incorporate recycling concepts in various subjects, including:

Arts and Crafts: Teachers can encourage students to make art projects using recycled materials such as making plant pots out of plastic bottles.

English: Teachers can recommend books that talk about waste and the environment, such as The Iron Man and Charlie and Lola: We Are Extremely Very Good Recyclers, depending on the age group of the students targeted.

Geography: Students will understand the link between natural resources and demand for products and their link together.

Science: Students can form a link between the properties of materials, whether or not they can be recycled and how they can be recycled.

Trip Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the effect of throwing waste in the trash without recycling it.
- Understand the benefits of recycling on the environment and on the economy.
- Learn how to segregate waste based on what they are consist of.
- How to spread the habit of recycling around the school and in student`s homes.

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Outdoor Environmental Educational Field Trips

Post-trip activity: Waste Audit

Schools can encourage students, especially if the school has an Eco Club, to start a waste audit such as the Green Schools Audit (GSA). A selected number of students are chosen to examine the amount and type of waste generated in the school. This can help the school and students to understand how much waste they generate and begin taking actions in order to reduce the amount of waste generated.

Applying learning and observations taken from the field-trip into a real-life situation, i.e. the school will allow the students to incorporate the concepts into everyday life and make recycling a habit.

Contact Information:

If a school is interested in visiting one of the recycling facilities in Abu Dhabi, contact the Centre for Waste Management (CWM) Abu Dhabi

Phone: **02 818 5555**



مركز إدارة النفايات - أبوظبي
The Center of Waste Management - Abu Dhabi

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Together We Make a Difference: Over 957 kg of Waste Collected in Four Hours



On 27th January 2018, more than 50 professional divers from different governmental and public entities got together to collect marine debris at the Fishermen's Wharf. This event is part of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi's Clean-up Campaign series under the theme of "Together We Make The Difference" to commemorate 2018 as the "Year of Zayed".

It took the divers four hours of cleaning up marine debris to collect roughly 957 kg of waste consisting of plastic bottles, cans, containers, construction materials and many more. The divers were briefed with the rules and conditions of how to collect the data.

This campaign was the first of many campaigns that aim to shed light on the importance of taking care of our marine environment. Under the theme of "Protecting our Environment", many more initiatives will be conducted this year in order to spread the message and raise awareness.

National Environment Day

On 4th February the National Environment Day was celebrated across the UAE as the day where people are encouraged to incorporate sustainable actions in their lives. In honour of this day, schools under the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) held festivals and events to raise awareness and educate people on how to live sustainably.

Al Ittihad National Private School

As part of their festivities, the school's students took a pledge to reduce water and electricity consumption and waste generation. Members of the Eco Club displayed their art using recycled materials to promote recycling and limiting waste generated. The National Environment day event focused on the theme of cleaning up and reducing waste generated.

The Eco Club set up booths to raise awareness by organising activities that highlight proper actions and the amount of waste we generate. One of the activities included teaching primary students the negative effects of littering and another workshop made use of bottle caps to make the map of the UAE. Higher-level students engaged by guiding them to build the "Jenga" game using printer boxes.

Students from every class were asked to write tips on their boxes on how to achieve a clean environment. This activity not only promoted critical thinking on living a sustainable life, but also taught students the importance of working together to achieve a sustainable environment.



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National Environment Day Al Bateen Scientific Private School



The focal point of the school's National Environment Day was the newly built eco-friendly greenhouse. The greenhouse is home to five Ghaf trees, which will contribute to the sequestration of 85 kg of CO₂ this year alone. This activity prompts children to understand the importance of preserving local habitats and planting trees, seeing that the Ghaf tree has cultural and economic values but is also under threat of extinction.

As a contribution towards their Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI), the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) donated 20 kg of organic fertilisers to be used in the school's greenhouse. This fertiliser was generated from food waste as part of the Agency's innovative sustainability solutions.



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National Environment Day Al Talea School



Al Talea Government School along with Al Ain Zoo helped in organising the science exhibition for environmental innovation as part of the environmental national day and innovation month. Fourteen schools participated in the exhibition, seven of which are part of the Sustainable School Initiative (SSI); Al Talea School, Al Badia School, Mohamed Bin Khaled Private School, Mohamed Bin Khaled Government School, Ain Al Khaleej School, Al Ghaith School, Al Zaidia School, Al Murihib School, and the Indian School in Abu Dhabi. The number of attendees approximately reached 2,200 during the 6th & 7th February 2018 among which were officials from Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Centre.

A variety of projects were presented by the students including Al Talea's own students who worked on powering Al Talea park with solar power, a manual vending machine, the desert air conditioner, and two shows. Al Talea School also participated in the municipality's exhibition for innovation month by presenting a model of theme park games powered by solar energy.

The Environmental Learning Center organised a trip for the school students to participate in the Science Festival at Al Ain Mall as part of the Innovation month celebrations to hone the student's creative and innovative skills.



continued 

National Environment Day Al Khatim School



Al Khatim government school adopted four new schools for this year's environment national day including Sheikh Zayed Academy for Girls, Rooh Al Etihad School, Al Ekhlash School and Al Shwamekh School.

Students from different grades participated in the event along with private organisations and companies such as Tadweer and Eedama.

In addition to the parent council which is composed of a group of mothers who are invested in instilling the love of the environment in their children by teaching them new ways of reusing old items, as well as including it in their art courses at school.

A variety of experiments, educational information and activities were presented, for example, a group of students conducted a simple experiment to determine the pH of the soil and based on the results supply the soil with the proper compounds suitable for the plants.

Another group displayed a chart discussing the benefits of the mangrove trees and the younger students focused on recyclable art.

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“Drop It Youth” Campaign: An Initiative to Ban Single Use Plastic

On 3rd May 2016, the social enterprise Goumbook Initiative launched a nation-wide campaign that goes by “Drop It!” campaign, which focused on communities and businesses to unify them against the consumption of plastic bottles.

The campaign also plans to donate 5% of the sales of their reusable plastic-free bottles to go towards the water project charities in order to provide portable water to global communities.

Drop It Youth is to raise awareness about single-use plastic pollution and encourage individuals and organisations to reduce their CO2 emissions through simple everyday choices.

Interested students are given opportunities to become ambassadors by sending a video on what sustainability meant to them and previous activities they have done to achieve sustainability.

The chosen ambassadors will run campaigns and initiatives from 15th January 2018 to 30th April 2018 to raise awareness on plastic pollution and provide innovative solutions.

Students can also visit the Drop It Youth website to take a pledge against using plastic bottles using the links provided below:



www.dropit.ae

www.dropityouth.org

sustainableschools.ead.ae

Education for Sustainability

We look forward receiving your feedback about our quarterly newsletter.

To contact us:

sustainableschools@ead.ae
sustainableschools.ead.ae



@EADTweets



Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
Sustainable Campus Initiative
Green Youth Majlis

YouTube



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