

A FORUM FOR EDUCATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY

MULTAQANA



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Dear Readers

The achievability of the environmental education initiatives performed by the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi highlights the crucial role the agency plays in giving students the proper set of skills for them to prepare for their future in further developing the country. This is in alignment with the UAE Centennial 2071 plan, where it outlines the country's goal in attaining the best education in the world. The goal of this plan is for future generations to live a happier life in a better environment.

Providing the most modern technologies available and catering to all of the student's needs and interests, the country plans on educating the youth on the fundamental morals of the UAE while preparing them from primary education to the highest level of education to shape citizens that are capable in propelling the country forward.

The success of this plan requires the next generation to be inventive problem-solvers, and one major issue facing our society is an environmental one. For the youth to be able to deal with these environmental issues, they first require having a background on environmental concerns to form solutions. This is where the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) programme plays an essential role. The initiative provides both the means and motives for young students to take on local environmental concerns. This also forms an interest within students towards environmental issues, which is crucial as the environment is receiving more and more interest from around the world. This issue documents the achievements of various schools under EAD's Sustainable School Initiatives in different aspects of the Sustainability field.

Sustainable Schools Team
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD)

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Sustainable Schools Initiative Town Hall Meetings

The Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) held three Town Hall meetings on 24th April at the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital, 25th April at the Al Ain Zoo and on the 26th April at the Bainunah Educational complex. All meetings began with a film that showcased SSI achievements followed by an opening statement from BP the initiatives sponsor. Speeches were also delivered from Abu Dhabi Distribution Company (ADDC), Al Ain Distribution Company (AADC) and from the Department of Transport (DoT), concluding with a tour of the location.

This event was to highlight how the initiative has been designed to be a holistic approach to help participating schools achieve its objective of promoting “Environmental Education and Shared Responsibility”. One example of the many methods practiced includes teaching students how to change their daily activities in order to reduce their carbon emissions.

The meetings also provided a platform for the initiative to highlight the variety of approaches it implements for partners and stakeholders who are interested to see how the initiative is integrating environmental practices into its programmes.

In doing so, it also emphasises the need for cooperation between governmental and semi-governmental entities as they have aligned goals for promoting “Environmental Education and Shared Responsibility”.

The meeting also saw the launch of the SSI Interactive Map, which can be accessed through the Sustainable Schools Initiative website.

This issue also provides an instruction sheet on how the map works.

The events were wrapped up with a ceremony where 120 schools were awarded for their outstanding accomplishments over the course of the academic year of 2017-2018.



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Sustainable Schools Initiative Town Hall Meetings

[Click here](#) to download the meeting photos

User name: sschools

Password: ssi@1234

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Sustainable Schools Initiative Interactive Map

Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) interactive map is an online tool designed to help schools monitor their environmental impact through five key elements: water, air, waste, land and energy. The map provides the findings of the Green Schools Audit (GSA), which will allow the students to understand the environmental issues in their schools as well as other schools neighbouring and far. It will also allow students and teachers alike to compare their data with other schools as well as compare their previous environmental data to current ones in order to know if they have improved their environmental impact or not. Furthermore, it will help students to start developing an action plan to reduce the ecological footprint in their school.

Click on the link provided for the Sustainable Schools website:

<https://sustainableschools.ead.ae/SSI>

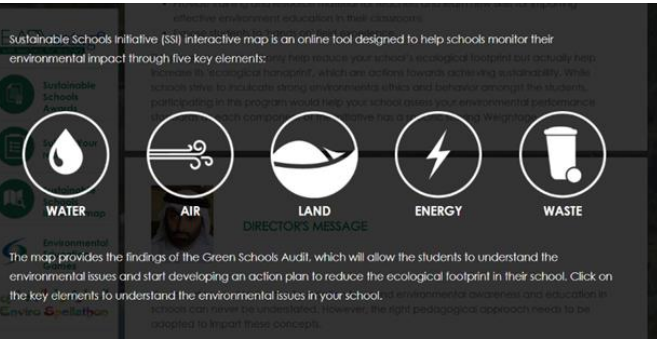
Under submit your report section, click on the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) map option.



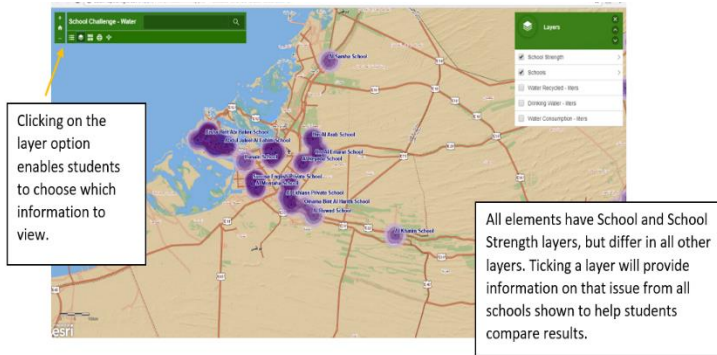
Sustainable
Schools
Initiative map

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SSI Interactive Map - Instruction sheet



Once the layers are chosen, students can simply click on any school to view its data on that issue and compare.

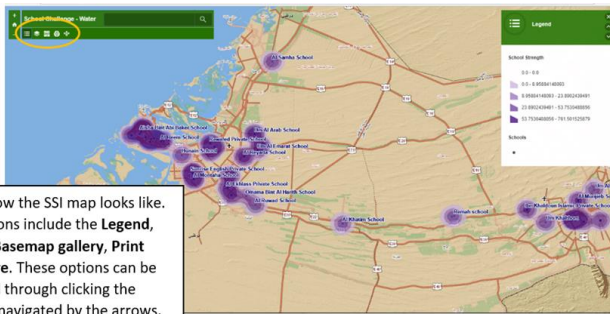


Students will be prompted to choose which of the five elements they would like to investigate.

Once chosen, a map will pop up with all the information on that issue. Once an element is chosen, a map will appear with all the schools under the SSI programme shown.

The interactive map is designed to have layers for the school's environmental performances.

Finally, students can choose which base map option to use from the gallery provided.



Middle East Youth Expo 2018

On 1 May 2018, the Middle East Youth Expo 2018 was held for the first time in Abu Dhabi at Du Forum, Yas Island under the patronage of Lt. General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the UAE.

The event was planned as part of the government's interest in its future generation, designed to be considered a standard model for enabling youth. The event, the first of its kind, aligns with the country's National Agenda in supporting and empowering youth.

Therefore, its launching represents the country's strategy in catering and developing the next generation in preparation for the future of the country. It allows thousands of youth to interact with key figures and leaders from governmental, semi-governmental and private sectors, in order to inspire them and guide them. Ultimately, the two-day event aimed to impact youth from the ages of 15 to 24 in terms of deciding what role they would like to strive for, to propose innovative solutions and build a better future.

As part of its role in realising the country's agenda, the agency used this platform to feature its responsibility in enabling students through its Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) and Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI). These initiatives motivate students and provides them the tools so that they not only become more aware of current environmental issues but also are capable in providing innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

<http://www.meyouthexpo.ae/me-youth-expo.html>



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How Sustainable Schools are contributing to the UAE National Green KPIs

Al Taleea School

Al Taleea School was awarded with the Hamdan award for the Best Implemented Project category. Their winning project was titled “Environment Education Center” and as the name suggests, it is a facility that provides services to the school as well as the surrounding community regarding environmental concerns. The aim of this center is to contribute to the environmental education of the community by spreading awareness and strengthening community bonds by tackling environmental issues collectively.

The facility inaugurated in 2015 under Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) and has had many successful activities in various fields, including campaigns about agriculture, beekeeping and recycling. It has also seen success in integrating environmental skills into students that are necessary for their future success.

It is also notable that the center’s efforts resulted in more acceptance towards adopting sustainable lifestyles by the community.

This type of work is the product of educational bodies supporting youth into making a change, emphasising their role in contributing to the National Green Key Performance Indicators, towards making the country a more sustainable one.



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How Sustainable Schools are contributing to the UAE National Green KPIs

Um Al Arab School

In the case of Um Al Arab School, the main highlight that features it as a model Sustainable School is its achievement in being selected as one of the two schools chosen to be part of the "Sustainability Champions" programme. The programme is being managed by Expo 2020 Dubai as their contribution to Earth Day, with a collaboration from both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Climate Change & Environment.

To reward them for their commitment toward sustainability, the programme is awarding two schools photovoltaic panels that have an accumulative worth of AED one million, which will be operational from September 2018, for the start of the new academic year. In addition to that, the programme will be supporting the school in their sustainable initiatives for Expo 2020.

Installing photovoltaic panels will contribute to the school's energy demand, thereby decreasing its carbon footprint. By doing so, the school can then be considered a prime example of a renewable energy-sourced organisation, which can help mediate the transition of other facilities after seeing the success and viability of using photovoltaic panels.

The panels will also reduce costs of the school, which would then allow the school to invest more in sustainable projects, such as their successful recycling center, the country's first recycling center located in a school.



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How Sustainable Schools are contributing to the UAE National Green KPIs

Sunrise Private School



placing waste bins in classroom, for food waste, plastic waste and paper waste.

Sunrise Private School has proven to be a remarkable school in the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) programme, as well. One of Sunrise school's own faculty, Ms. Leena Maniyath, has been shortlisted as one of the potential finalists for the GCC Teacher award Bett MEA Awards for 2018 <https://mea.bettshow.com/bett-MEA-awards>. The purpose of the Award is to honour those who provide creative and innovative solutions to everyday challenges and considered leading pioneers in their fields.

Ms. Leena is the main coordinator for SSI; she has undertaken multiple activities and projects, both within the school as well as the community. Internal campaigns include; waste segregation by

This was to promote the concept of waste segregation between students. For food waste, it was placed in a compost pit to produce manure for the school garden, whereas all their paper and plastic waste was fully recycled.

On a broader scale, students took action to raise awareness on water consumption by visiting households and handing out pamphlets. Another campaign focused on overfishing, where students visited fish markets to inform fishermen and the public alike on the issue and its effects in endangering certain fish species, namely hamour and sherri. To support this, 200 people decided to cut off buying fish that are threatened, indicating the success of the school's initiative.

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Top Team for 2017



The Water Explorer Programme is an educational online program that enables students all around the world to take action to preserve water (www.waterexplorer.org).

When participating school's complete achievements, they earn points which wins them prizes that help them in accomplishing their water conservation goals. Eventually, one out of five schools nominated by the country is chosen as the National Winner

In South Africa, the five nominated schools, Siphakamile Combined Primary, Howick High, Laddsworth Primary school, Danville Park Girls

High and Northdene Prep, gathered at Umgeni Valley in Howick to present to an expert panel their works and projects in improving their water practices.

The team selected to be the National Winner was Siphakamile Combined Primary, which was awarded R10,000 while the other schools received R5,000 each towards funding their water conservation projects.

Join the programme to be one of the upcoming winners!

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Environmental Occasions - Celebration Dunes International School

On the 20th March, Dunes International school arranged a series of events in preparation for the arrival of one of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) representatives, Ms. Muna Ali from the Outreach department. Since it was also the day the school celebrated Green Day, students and teachers alike wore green coloured clothes in order to bring attention to environmental matters. The activities of the day were designed to raise awareness on problems relating to the environment and its resources by engaging students in physical outdoor activities.

The first event of the day began at the auditorium where the primary section presented a “Save Trees and Save Environment” dance to excite their fellow students; the school’s Ambassadors of Sustainability gave a short presentation to explain what the school had achieved internally and externally from its sustainable projects followed this. They also included the importance of celebrating Green day as part of its transition to a sustainable school.

The highlight of the day’s events was the planting of a tree on the grounds of the school, symbolising the school’s intent to have a greener future. Ms. Muna Ali from EAD then gave a speech on the importance of sustaining the environment and adapting our lifestyle to do so The assembly ended with a pledge on sustainability to protect the environment and conserve resources.

With an aim to disseminate the message of nature conservation and protection, a rally took place on the school campus. Students took out on the rally placards and banners carrying the messages “Save Trees”, “Reduce Pollution”, “Sow and Grow”, “Conserve Water, Energy and Wildlife”. The event proved successful in enabling and educating students as they demonstrated their concern by creating rally posters, comic strips and reports.



Environmental Occasions - Celebration Salama Bint Butti School



As a celebration of Water Day, which was on the 21st March, Salama Bint Butti School presented a series of events that showcased student's interest in water issues while providing them with the platform to display their concerns by various creative means.

The day commenced with the school broadcast where attention was brought on the significance of protecting freshwater reserves and the need to develop more sustainable water regulations. The general message of the day was to bring more awareness to the public on water issues and educate people about water preservation by altering their lifestyles.

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Environmental Occasions – Celebration Bangladesh School

Also celebrating Water Day, the Bangladesh School prepared a set of activities to spread the message that water is precious and needs to be conserved. The event was initiated by a speech during the morning assembly highlighting the need to adopt a more sustainable approach to the consumption of our water. This was followed by a skit prepared to showcase the importance of water in our lives. Other activities that the school had prepared for are some songs and a performance where students mimicked the sounds of rain and thunder.

Giving students a platform to share ideas and thoughts, projecting them into creative outlets will help spread the message across better than any other means. Not only that, it also creates a bond between students where they can form and enhance their teamwork skills. With both awareness and a skillset, students can then begin formulating a solution to tackle the water problem, a major concern for the country.



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Environmental Occasions – Celebration Drop It Youth : Marine Water Cleaner

Every year on 22 April, over a billion people across 192 countries come together to celebrate Earth Day by taking actions to preserve and protect the environment. This included proposing ideas and innovative solutions to reduce our carbon footprint and plastic waste generation for a better, cleaner Earth.

Fifth grader Sainath Manikandan from GEMS United Indian School designed a marine robot cleaner, “M-Bot Cleaner”, as his contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water. How the robot works is that it cleans surface water by removing floating plastic waste. His project also includes a Plastic Cleaner App which served to remotely control the movement of the robots. It will also collect information on where plastic waste is in the water and guide the robot to the locations. He hopes that his project will remove plastic waste in the oceans and improve marine life.

Sainath also wants to promote the concept of using paper bags instead of single-use plastic. People are encouraged to take a pledge to reduce the use of single-use plastic through www.dropityouth.org in order to limit plastic pollution.



Art of Recycling - Green Youth Majlis (GYM)

The year 2018 marks the passing of 100 years since the birth of the founding father of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to commemorate it has been declared that 2018 will be officially known in the UAE as the so the Year of Zayed. One fundamental message Sheikh Zayed wanted to spread was to care for the environment, as indicated by his quote “Protecting the environment should not be or seen as a matter of concern for the government and authorities only, but a matter of concern to all of us. It is the responsibility of everyone and the responsibility of each individual in our society, citizens and residents”.

To pay tribute, members of the Green Youth Majlis (GYM) decided to embark on a project to protect the environment, under the name “Art of Recycling”. The project attempts to raise awareness on protecting the marine environment from plastic waste, a major concern that affects the health of marine life as well as puts a risk at their survivability if this issue is not resolved.

This was achieved through displaying art of endangered marine species, created using upcycled plastic waste. The projects aim was to raise awareness for changing people’s behaviour using plastic and to adopt the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover).

This project was sponsored by Borouge Company, who has continuously shown support for the Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) as well as generally contributing to protecting the environment from plastic waste through their own campaigns, such as the “Zero Pellet Loss” project. The Borouge Innovation Center helped GYM members by supplying plastic waste.



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Al Wathba Wetland Reserve Photography Competition

On 19 November 2017, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi launched Al Wathba Photography Competition. The competition encouraged professional and amateur photographers to capture creative images that reflect Al Wathba Wetland Reserve's natural beauty and rich biodiversity.

The Participation from the public was excellent with a total of 154 unique and impactful photos received from 75 photographers.

The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi announced the winners of the competition on 10th June 2018. The winning photos were chosen by a jury comprising of a group of photographers and Environmental specialists.

The first place in the Professional Category was withheld. Nader Al Jneibi won the second place and the third place was won by Viktoryia Vinnikava. The first place winner in the Amateur Category was Nuwair Al Hajerir. Manny Fajutag was awarded second place and the third place was won by Syed Mohsin. Winning photos and all entries submitted for the Al Wathba Photography Competition can be viewed on EAD outreach Instagram account using the two hashtags, #snapalwthba #envagency.



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Using never-before-seen footage collected from the archives of National Geographic, the documentary “Jane” was created to narrate the story of Jane Goodall, a woman whose chimpanzee research challenged the male-dominated scientific consensus of her time.

Jane Goodall is an animal rights activist who is known for living in Tanzania amongst chimpanzees, giving her the perfect opportunity to study primates in close proximity. Her work revolutionised our understanding of the natural world.

The context of the movie showed some of Jane’s earliest works around 1960, where the 26 years old scientist began her research in Gombe with chimpanzees. Due to her lack of any kind of formal training, Goodall used an unorthodox method to observe wildlife where she interacted firsthand with her study subjects and formed emotional bonds with them, giving her a different perspective than what was the norm during that era. This resulted in her discoveries having an insight to them much unlike any other study on wildlife and chimpanzees.

The documentary was fine-tuned so that each strum matched the frame displayed.

The main theme of the film was female empowerment, in a time and field where women were not as accepted. The movie also disclosed aspects of her private life and the beginning of her legendary journey. The documentary has received much praise and good reviews from viewers and won various prestigious awards.



Official Film Trailer:
[JANE | National Geographic](#)

Eco Cinema Dream Big Film

Narrated by the Academy Award winner Jeff Bridges, Dream Big: Engineering Our World is a film designed for IMAX to illustrate how engineering has developed over the years. The movie depicts the pivotal role of engineers in transforming our everyday lives and completely changing societies, spanning from China to Australia to Dubai to Seattle. The film features numerous engineers with different backgrounds to illustrate how they contributed in revolutionising the world. The movie aims to create a difference in how engineering is viewed.

From the Great Wall of China to the tallest buildings such as Burj Khalifa, to underwater robots, solar cars and smart, sustainable cities, Dream Big celebrates the human ingenuity behind engineering marvels big and small and reveals the heart that drives engineers to create better lives of people around the world.

The underlying message this film seeks to share out is the various forms of engineering that are out there, hoping to inspire youth to form an interest in one of them. The film, in itself, has created a platform to tell the story of engineering to a much grander audience.

The movie is produced in partnership with the American Society of Civil Engineers and presented by Bechtel Corporation.



[Dream Big](#)

How to Have a Green Vacation



The government of the UAE considers sustainability a key component of its development plans, where it is considered a leading country in the field of sustainability. As part of the country's Vision 2021, the country is moving to achieve milestones in sustainable developments. As such, the country has designed its tourism sector to have a low-impact and be eco-friendly.

The country has a vast number of environmental groups that are dedicated to preparing eco-tours for interested people. These groups include the Emirates Natural History Group, the Emirates Environmental Group, and the Emirates Bird Records Committee.

Eco-tourism is beneficial in promoting and preserving the country's heritage and natural resources.

While participating in eco-tours causes less damage to the environment, it is crucial to understand how little things could also have an effect. When travelling for vacation, you need to have a green mentality and make sure every small choice should take into consideration the effects on the environment.

Before travelling, you should switch off all electricity outlets, turn air conditioning off and make sure the refrigerator is emptied and turned off. This helps reduce unnecessary energy consumption.



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How to Have a Green Vacation

Below is a list of tips to consider when deciding to travel abroad for a vacation:

- Choose a destination that's not too far away as transportation contributes to climate change.
- Travel light and only take with you what you need.
- Travel companies offer eco-trips that minimises impact and support local communities.
- Choose environmental friendly accommodation.
- Respect local environments (don't litter, recycle) and support local businesses.
- Use public transportation when travelling.
- Carefully choose souvenirs and avoid objects made of materials sourced from endangered animals or plants.
- Choose activities that are eco-friendly, or ones that don't consume energy.



Education for Sustainability

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