



# Inside SSI

A Forum for Educators  
of Sustainability

## WELCOME TO INSIDE SSI!

### Editor's Column

August 2020 / Edition 22

#### ***Bittersweet Back to School***

The last few weeks and months have been challenging for parents, schools, and students, as everyone had to hit the ground running and adjust quickly to new ways of delivering various educational experiences, through distance learning solutions.

As we prepare for the new academic year 2020-2021 and the return to schools across the UAE, a lot of uncertainties persist as everyone adjusts to the new norm. According to Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) guidelines,

there will be a temporary suspension of extra-curricular activities on the schools' premises, but we are delighted to update you that much of our planned content and sessions can be held remotely using various tech platforms. We can also work with schools to create sustainability-focused content that could be shared with students via popular distance learning tools, such as Google Classroom, Seesaw...etc.

The Sustainable Schools Initiative team will be connecting with various schools during the second

half of August 2020, to gauge the best ways to create bespoke content and virtual events that best suit the reopening model your school has opted for.

In the meantime, please feel free to email us at [sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae](mailto:sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae) or give us a call on **+971564121673** if you have specific ideas for the new academic year.

Stay safe, Be well! And let us make the most of this year.

[sustainableschools.ead.ae](http://sustainableschools.ead.ae)

# Sponsor's Welcome

bp is an integrated energy company, providing innovative solutions to improve people's lives. Headquartered in London and established in the Middle East for over a century, it aims to help the world reach net zero. As a proud partner of SSI for over 10 years, bp supports nurturing the knowledge and means to address global environmental issues through educating younger generations. And shares the concerns of our community's stakeholders and believes that actions today can solve long term environmental challenges.

bp's purpose is reimagining energy for people and our planet, and the company encourages action today, that will lead to a healthier and safer tomorrow.





### Connect with Nature – ‘Ambassadors for Nature’ rolls out with Abu Dhabi schools

Earlier in 2020, the Connect with Nature (CWN) organization launched a new programme, ‘20 Ambassadors for Nature’, seeking remarkable youth who are curious and committed to sustainability. A discussion session was held by the CWN team at Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) to introduce the new programme to registered schools under SSI Lead Schools, featuring school coordinators and students.

Several aspiring students were chosen to master the skills.



required to solve environmental challenges in this 10-month globally recognised programme.

The attending schools were; Umm Al Arab School, Remah School, Omama Bint Harith School, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Bangladesh Islamia School, Al Taleea Secondary School, Abu Dhabi Indian School, Liwa International School, Bright Riders School, Aisha Bint Abu Bakr Independent School, Sunrise English Private School and

Qatr Al Nada School.

This initiative is sponsored by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and the International Fund for Houbara Conservation.

If your school is interested in hosting a similar activity (or a virtual session) in the new academic year, please get in touch at [sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae](mailto:sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae) or call +971564121673.

### Abu Dhabi Clean

#### Abu Dhabi residents lead citizen science through innovative app, “Abu Dhabi Clean”

Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) will be launching a research and conservation application to encourage

residents to uptake citizen science and support EAD in conducting research on different waste types found on beaches, throughout the year. Users joining this progressive movement will contribute to healthier and more sustainable lifestyles, by urging local authorities to respond to findings regarding plastic consumption and other waste types in the marine environment.

# Top News

## The inaugural Al Sidr Environmental Film Festival a hit with Abu Dhabi schools

The inaugural Al Sidr Environmental Film Festival (ASEFF) took place between Thursday, February 6 and Saturday, February 8 at Manarat Al Saadiyat. ASEFF screened award-winning environmental films with an objective of triggering a deeper dialogue on the relationship between humans and the planet, with thought-provoking perspectives on how we can save it.

ASEFF began the conversation with younger audiences, through school screenings across 6 UAE schools during January 2020. The students were taught about the youth-led Global Climate Campaign through the screening of “Youth Unstoppable”, followed by a short discussion about climate change, food waste, and the plastic crisis.

The screenings were held at Al Bateen Academy, Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls, Al Yasmina Academy, Abu Dhabi Indian School for Boys & Girls, Abu Dhabi International Private School and ADNOC School, Sas Al Nakhl branch.

The festival reached approximately 1000 students and generated positive reviews from students and teachers.

Dates for ASEFF2021 will be announced over the coming few months, and school engagement is planned for this programme, contact us at [sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae](mailto:sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae) for more details on how your school can be involved.







# All Things Sustainable

This month's collection of All Things Sustainable features virtual tours and summer programmes to make the summer break at home more interesting. Some of these destinations are wonderful school trip ideas for high school and secondary students during the fall and winter seasons, as and when rules allow school trips to resume.



## Mangrove National Park

Located just outside the Abu Dhabi city center, Mangrove National Park is one of the most important ecological assets in the UAE and is perfect for nature lovers. It makes up about 75 percent of the total mangrove forest area in the UAE and is a biodiversity hotspot that includes a wide variety of different aquatic inhabitants, including crabs, herons, flamingos, and fish.

More information can be found [here](#)





## Al Wathba Wetland Reserve

Once a coastal salt flat area, Al Wathba Wetland Reserve has now flourished into beautiful lakes hosting many thriving species including as many as 4000 flamingos, more than 250 species of birds, 37 plant species and a wide range of aquatic life.

More information can be found [here](#)

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## Ruwais E-summer camp

An all-in-one programme designed to keep students physically and mentally active during the summer months. Virtual sports and fitness classes, a science programme featuring the STEM programme, advice and tips from medical professionals, arts & crafts, and even culture awareness sections.

More information can be found [here](#)



# What's Next?

Stay tuned for updates on meeting the experts, virtual tours, panel discussions and lots of other interactive activities. Join our upcoming sessions including:

## Virtual discussion: Single Use Plastic: Policy Commitment and Sustainable Business

**Date:** August 12, 2020  
**Tim:** 5:00-6:10pm

A virtual talk tackling business commitment toward sustainability and how youth can overcome environmental issues. Industry experts from EAD and Borouge, and guest speaker Ashay Bhave, Entrepreneur and Founder of Thaely, will lead the environmental discussion. Bhave will share his inspiring story, joining Sustainable Universities Initiative and how he transformed plastic waste into a successful product.

## Interactive Session: Discover the Mangroves

**Date:** August 18, 2020  
**Tim:** 4:00-5:00pm

Kids can enjoy a virtual tour and interactive session on Zoom, to explore the Mangroves, with many educational facts about this nature lover's retreat, with Amna Al Mansoori, Assistant Scientist, Marine Habitats at EAD.

## Film Screening and Panel discussion: Albatross

**Date:** August 20-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Tune into the screenings of the award-winning film 'Albatross' on August 20-23, where you can conveniently watch the film through an all-day screening option, followed by a panel discussion with Chris Jordan, Film Director, on August 23, 2020, at 6:00 – 7:00.

## Meeting Rasha Al Saleh: My Sustainability Journey

**Date:** August 31st, 2020  
**Tim:** 5:00-6:00pm

Discover how green actions can be incorporated into daily life, featuring Rasha Al Saleh, Engagement Officer at Emirates Nature-WWF, sharing her journey with sustainability on Zoom.

To join these inspirational sessions organised by EAD and for more information on our activity-packed calendar, register by sending us an email at [outreach@ead.gov.ae](mailto:outreach@ead.gov.ae). Registered users will receive a Zoom invitation link to their chosen event, as well as the latest updates on upcoming events and sessions.

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