



Inside SSI

A Forum for Educators
of Sustainability

WELCOME TO INSIDE SSI!

Editor's Column

September 2020 / Edition 23

New beginnings - Commencing the new academic year

Teachers, parents, and students are settling into the new academic year routines. After nearly six months away, students around the UAE have returned to school, and the adaptation to the new norm is still work in progress. All Schools have been diligent in implementing safety procedures announced by the relevant authorities, including COVID-19 testing, temperature checks, physical distancing, wearing masks, and hygiene practices. It is an incredible effort from teachers and staff that is well appreciated by students and families.

The Sustainable Schools Initiative team is reaching out to schools to coordinate the best way to provide engaging content and virtual events for students. SSI has also launched dedicated social media channels to keep you updated with the latest information for virtual events, new environmental educational resources, news, tips and more!

In the meantime, please feel free to email us at sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae or follow us on Facebook and Instagram at **@SSI_UAE** to keep

in touch throughout the new academic year. We also have a dedicated SSI WhatsApp group, please email us if you would like more teachers from your school to be added to it.

Stay safe, Be well! And let us have an amazing year!

SSI Team

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.

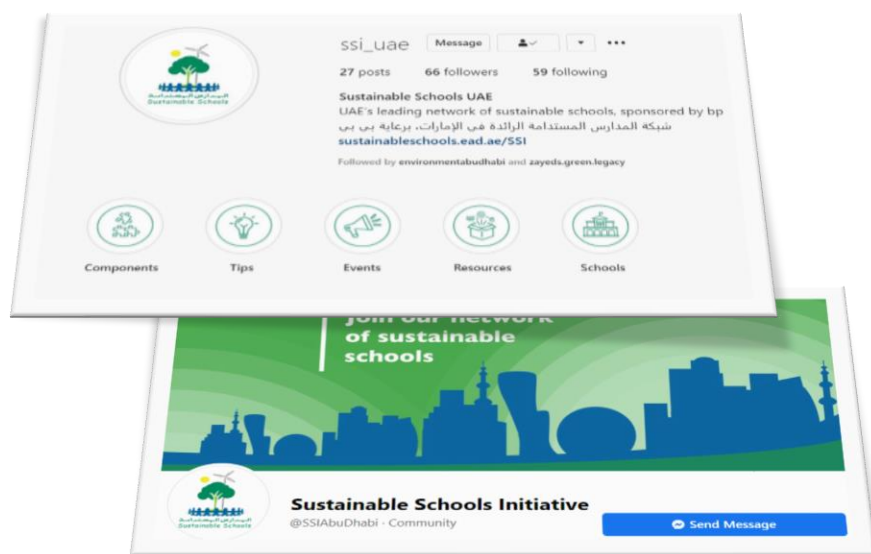
bp's purpose is reimagining energy for people and our planet, and the company encourages action today, that will lead to a healthier and safer tomorrow.



Top News

Sustainable Schools goes virtual

As a part of the ongoing commitment to engage, educate and empower youth, the SSI team has launched new social media channels on Facebook and Instagram. SSI aims to stay connected with educators, and youth, announcing upcoming sessions, educational resources, news, and more on social media! Teachers, parents, and students now have these new channels to converse on the best ways to make our community more sustainable.



Eight Students from SSI Lead Schools nominated in Youth 4 Sustainability

Today's youth are an integral part of the transition towards a greener economy, Youth 4 Sustainability (Y4S) has launched a series of programs aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UAE's National Strategy to educate youth to become sustainability ambassadors.

Eight students from SSI network of schools, including Al Nahda National School, St Joseph School, GEMS Indian school, and Al Ittihad National Private school, were nominated to join the program. The nominated students were Aysha Khalifa Al Hosani, Mariam Saood Al Junaibi, Aakarsha Korada, Mahalakshmi Muralidharan Veena, Tavisheee Patil, Rhesa Thomas, Aliaa Alhosani, and Mariam Tarek Alkarji. Y4S will feature knowledge building, and skills training throughout the academic year.



Green Achiever

Al Ittihad National Private School Innovative Summer Camp

This month's Green Achiever is Al Ittihad National Private School, for spearheading sustainable education through its Innovative Summer Camp! The virtual summer camp featured 20 students, from grade 9 and under, who were divided into two groups.

The Zoom sessions were conducted over the span of eight weeks, featuring live Q and A sessions on Nearpod, arts and crafts activities including how to create recyclable material, scavenger hunts for biodiversity, and applying STEM education to understand recycling.

The work created by students was showcased in a virtual museum which allows users to take a closer look at their amazing work.

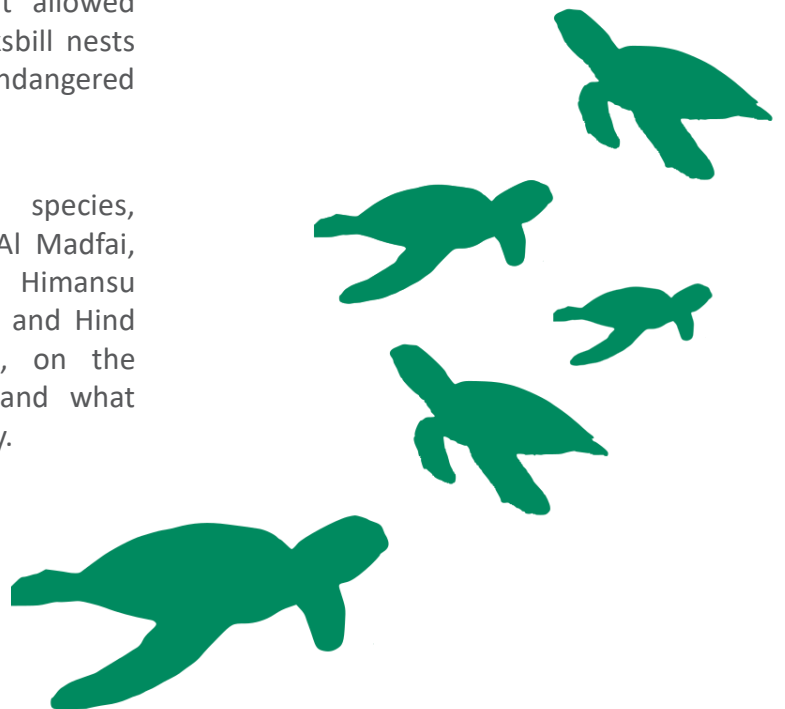
Link to virtual museum:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_fHeeDYMIkpzxpYU32S9yAQ4ZgGF6QjEfVytbFQQQgo/edit#slide=id.g8add91eef_0_23

St Joseph's school students explore Hawksbill turtles

Our second Green Achiever for this month is St. Joseph's School which held a research program that allowed students to study hawksbill turtles. The hawksbill nests on sandy beaches has become critically endangered primarily because of human fishing practices.

Understanding the challenges facing the species, students questioned EAD experts, Rasha Ali Al Madfai, Section Manager for Sustainable Schools, Himansu Sekhar, Head of Marine Threatened Species, and Hind Mohsen Omar AlAmeri, Assistant Scientist, on the measures taken to protect these animals and what actions they could take daily in their community.



All Things Sustainable

This month's collection of All Things Sustainable features latest environmentally themed books to keep everyone entertained during their free time.

These Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi productions uncover how species live in the UAE, which is home to about 2 million species. As it has a hot desert climate, species adapt to the fragile ecosystem and survive against all odds!



Life in the Plant Kingdom

Discover the plant kingdom including the wonders of trees, herbs, bushes, grasses, vines, and green algae. Explore how plants are used in producing medicines, fruits, vegetables, and even oxygen, and how their struggle to survive can affect many aspects of planet Earth.

Climate Change Inside UAE

This fantastic book uncovers how UAE addresses the climate change conflict, the country's rich history, and how its ecosystem has been affected throughout the years. Addressing the downsides of having oil as a primary energy source, energy usage for water production, the environmental consequences of a rising economy, its carbon footprint and how UAE overcomes these challenges with its initiatives.

Life in the Water

Explore the amazing journey of aquatic animals, dive into marine species, their characteristics, and life in water. Readers can discover how these endangered species including whales, dolphins, turtles, and even the famous dugong survive and manage the many risks of life at sea.

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 which include:

Herbarium Workshop

Date: September 23, 2020,

Tim: 4:30-5:30pm

Language: English

A virtual workshop where students can learn about the significance of plant specimens and see the vast collection available at EAD's Herbarium, hosted by EAD experts, Sabitha Sakkir, Scientist and Maitha Al Mansoori, Assistant Scientist. They will take the children on an adventure in the world of native plants and answer important questions: What are herbarium? How do we collect and process plant specimen? What is the role of the flora scientists in this process? To find out more, join the interactive virtual session organized by the SSI team on Wednesday, 23 September 2020 from 4:30-5:30pm.

The session is conducted in English on Zoom and is targeted for students aged 12 to 15 years old. To register, please contact us via email on sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae

Environmental Youth Talk: Prepare Compost at home

Date: September 30, 2020

Tim: 4:00-5:30pm

Language: Arabic

Green Youth Majlis team is arranging a Youth Environmental talk to display compost preparation at home to raise awareness on recycling food waste and reduce organic waste at home hosting Manal Mohamed Ali, Agriculture Specialist from Bahrain. Moreover, members will talk about their experience in composting.

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. 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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