



Inside SSI

A Forum for Educators
of Sustainability

WELCOME TO INSIDE SSI!

Editor's Column

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UAE weather cools down as we head towards the breathtaking outdoor season

Parents, teachers, and students have worked tremendously hard to adjust to the new academic year in the new norm. Although precautions are still in place, students can enjoy the cooler weather, get active and appreciate some time away from their devices.

Educationists and parents explain the importance of appropriate break time as pupils have spent months attached to their computer screens, as distance learning continues, and experts even recommend breaks to

avoid decline in academic performance.

Sustainable Schools Initiative team will be reaching out to schools with exciting engagement ideas and virtual sessions. Students and teachers can also stay informed with all the latest updates on our dedicated social media channels packed with virtual events, all things sustainability, news, and tips! Give us a follow on Facebook and Instagram at @SSI_UAE to keep in touch throughout the new academic year.

In the meantime, please feel free to email us at sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae to join our SSI WhatsApp group and connect with other teachers in our SSI network!

Stay safe and enjoy the beautiful weather!

SSI Team

sustainableschools.ead.ae

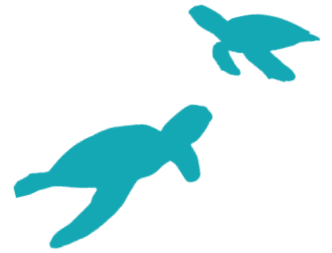
Sponsor's Welcome

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.



SSI launches special series, Nature-Inspired Tours and Talks, featuring Moti Azpurua



The Nature- inspired Tours and Talks series takes students on virtual experiences all around Abu Dhabi, featuring trips and online sessions to discover fun environmental facts! Moti's love for animals began when he was only 4 years old but today, he is recognized for knowing countless facts about animals with over 2500 followers on his social media accounts. He has visited places all around the world to learn about natural habitats including Egypt, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Mexico, and Florida, aiming to one day become an animal conservationist exploring wildlife.

The Zoom session which was entitled 'Wondrous Turtles of Al Dhafra that Inhibit UAE Waters' saw record participation! Over 680 students tuned in to learn all about turtles! A live Q&A session featured the differences between Hawksbill sea turtles and Green sea turtles, such as their head shape and beaks.

Moti also explained the life cycle of turtles beginning with eggs, hatching, juvenile phase, and adulthood which generally takes about 6 weeks. Students also learned about dangers affecting turtles including plastic bags found in the sea, which they can mistake for jelly fish and possibly kill them.

Moti encourages viewers to reduce their plastic use and recycle when possible to save the turtles!

Follow SSI on Facebook and Instagram to participate in future sessions!



Green Achiever

Arab Environment Day Celebration, Food Sustainability and Security Webinar

Over 13 schools from Kuwait, UAE and India participated in this virtual webinar, including SSI Lead Schools, Alain Junior School, Gems UIS, Abu Dhabi Indian School, Al Ittihad National Private School, and Private International English school.

Over 1500 students joined the Zoom session, along with guest speakers Jane Goodall, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, Tara Goshan, Director of Roots & Shoots UAE, Nick Cochrane-Dyet, Chairman of the British Business Group Abu Dhabi and Khansa Al Blouki, Director of Environmental Outreach at Environment Agency -Abu Dhabi, who celebrated Arab Environment Day.

Students explored the topics Food Security and Technological Advancement in Food Sustainability including the impact of technology on food sustainability and the rising need for food security. The message of sustainability was further spread through dances and skits which made the event vibrant.

Interactive sessions with the audience, such as live quizzes and games, made it enjoyable and entertaining for students. The panel and viewers discussed different ways they can combat the environmental issues and spread awareness.

SSI announces Green School Audit results

SSI Green School Audit announces 2019-2020 results showcasing remarkable achievements from the SSI network throughout the last academic year. The Bright Riders School engaged in the three-tier audit for a greener space - focusing on waste, land, and water. Students and faculty members were able to repurpose 1102 kgs of recycled waste, including creating paper bags from recycled newspapers, converting food waste into organic compost, and transforming water bottles into a beautiful display of the UAE flag.

Students also explored the school's greenery, analyzing plant species, and conducting research on endangered native plants. To monitor water consumption, students regularly took readings from the water meters and sanitation staff conducted an inspection to see how water can be reduced in hygienic practices.

To increase sustainability amid the pandemic, Al Ekhlash Private School aimed to reduce percentage of waste on school campus by 20%. Students partook in the Masdar City activity to build the world's largest artwork made from recycled materials, reaching 1,015 square meters- almost the size of two basketball courts. The mosaic artwork received a Guinness World Record award, containing almost 90,500 recycled items, including plastic bottles, cans and cardboard!

An SSI component, Green School Audit, is a tool designed to help school communities audit their use of natural resources, enabling them to become environmental managers who assess and implement sustainable practices in education systems.

All Things Sustainable

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



Life in the Sky book



An original Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD) production, Life in the Sky takes readers on an exploration of endangered birds around the world. It captures the survival story of these magnificent species; how civilization has destroyed their habitat, and how EAD supports local and global organizations to help them. Throughout the book, the birds will introduce themselves to readers, explaining their characteristics, how they fly, hunt food, and their survival struggles.

iEnviro-Spellathon

iEnviro-Spellathon, is Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD) initiative, teaches students about local flora, fauna and environmental issues in a way that is accessible for everyone, and it works on developing their awareness and language skills around local terminology

To date, over 1.8 million students across the UAE have joined the initiative, available from grades KG to sixth grade. Over the years, the program has evolved from used books, to an interactive app featuring 18 games, 12 animations, 9 interactive animations, in both English and Arabic. An additional feature is a live testing section, where students are encouraged to examine their knowledge and the results are sent by email to teachers, in addition to a certificate of participation.

<https://www.ead.gov.ae/en/join-the-movement/schools-and-campuses/i-enviro-spellathon>

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:

Team Tolerance (School sessions) in Arabic

Date: November 11,
2020

Tim: 4:30-5:30pm

Join our virtual session in Arabic, featuring Ahmed Al Dhaheri, Unit Head of Terrestrial Protected Area Management, and Humaid Kanji, Lead Environmental Economist, as they revisit their journey to the North and experiences with seeing effects of climate change on the region.

Registration link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0lduqqTkuGdGw50CDBws_yReKID5B8Zyk

Team Tolerance (School sessions) in English

Date: November 12,
2020

Tim: 4:30-5:30pm

Join our virtual session in English, featuring Ahmed Al Dhaheri, Unit Head of Terrestrial Protected Area Management, and Humaid Kanji, Lead Environmental Economist, as they revisit their journey to the North and experiences with seeing effects of climate change on the region.

Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZlIdOupqjwqGdeyQnss5XhrD5TdpKudXljj>

Environmental Youth Debate “Do we require incentives to become sustainable?”

Date: November 12,
2020

Tim: 10:00-11:45am

An online panel discussion via Zoom, hosted by Sustainable Campus Initiative, a fellow program under Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD). Abdulrahman Al Zaabi, Video Creator, visits the controversial topic of positive reinforcement and rewards regarding sustainable practices. The environmental debate will feature groups of 3 which will discuss their viewpoints, for and against the topic.

Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMkf-irjotGtd-FzrGKfUEI2Xnm3LS0YUb>

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