



Inside SSI

A Forum for Educators
of Sustainability

WELCOME TO INSIDE SSI!

Editor's Column

April 2021 / Edition 29

Although Earth Day was last month, it's important to remember the representation of such an important occasion. In 1970, several studies revealed that environmental and public health is at risk and Earth Day, April 22, marked an environmental movement all over the world to drive action to reverse these risks.

People, companies, neighborhoods, and governments all came together to effect change, and this year's theme was climate action under the hashtag #RestoreOurEarth.

A 3-day summit was held to progress the movement globally and in the UAE our SSI network of schools launched numerous projects to spread awareness, share conservation tips, and display environmental knowledge creatively through illustrations and videos. In the SSI community, we inspire acts of protection of the environment and focus on the importance of adopting eco-friendly measures every day, what are you going to do for the earth this month?

SSI Team

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. Bp aims to reach Net Zero by 2050, reaching for ambitious aims to reduce emissions, scale up renewables and invest more in low carbon. We will report back here with progress on our #bpNetZero journey!

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.



#bpNetZero

A familiar friend returns to Al Wathba

Al Wathba Wetland Reserve is one of our favorite places to explore, to learn about the different species, and soak up some sun in this beautiful natural setting. Our familiar friend, Mario Azpuruna has returned to discover all things insects and plants. He learns about the number of insect species, and super cool facts about how they are found, identified, and studied in the lab. He also analyzes plant samples with experts from the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and learns the secrets to processing plant specimens.

Mario takes the SSI community through the 5-step procedure such as pressing, drying, mounting, labelling, and storing plants to create an herbarium sheet. Stay tuned for more updates on the tour on our Instagram page @SSI_UAE.



SSI Launches UN Tide Turners Plastic Challenge: Pilot Phase for Abu Dhabi

On the occasion of World Water Day, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), launched the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge: Pilot Phase for Abu Dhabi, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Tide Turner Plastic Challenge ignites a global youth movement which combats single-use plastic pollution.

It is designed to inspire young people, aged 11 to 18 years old, to think about how they consume plastic, and learn how plastic pollution threatens life in oceans and on land. Students can then discover solutions to reduce single-use plastic and lead change in homes, communities, and schools, enabling their generation to advocate for change globally. The pilot phase winners will be announced on World Turtles Day to recognize students who championed conservation change.



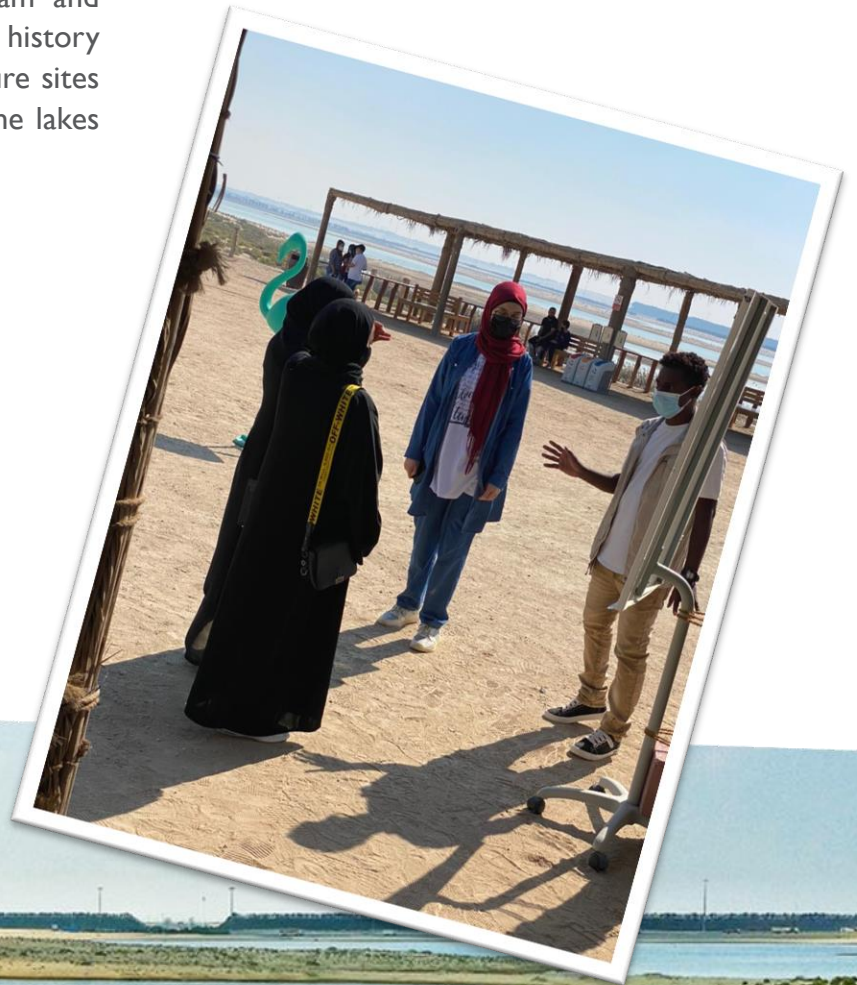
The Young Leaders Plastic Challenge



SSI students participate in over 750 hours of volunteering

88 students from Al Ittihad National Private School, Al Nahda National School, and Al Ekhlass Private School volunteered at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve totaling 753 hours of volunteering. The students joined Al Wathba Outreach Team and environmental experts to learn about the history of wetland formation, biodiversity, and nature sites like a bird hide, fresh water lakes, and saline lakes during January to March.

Students not only gained environmental knowledge from experts, but they also connected and explored nature while earning volunteering hours.



Green Achiever

Alaasimah School - The Ghaf Tree initiative

Alaasimah School has championed “greener” efforts in various ways inside the SSI community. This month’s Green Achiever award goes to Alaasimah School for launching the Ghaf tree initiative, which spread awareness about the importance of ghaf trees in the environment. The initiative was held during February and March 2021. The initiative included many activities such as teaching first grade students about the Ghaf tree

and how to write the word Ghaf in Arabic and create an art studio with illustrations of the ghaf tree. Older students held a competition to test students’ knowledge, held a community questionnaire, and planted seedlings in their homes. The initiative concluded with a song created by students about the Ghaf tree.



All Things Sustainable

This month's collection of All Things Sustainable features the latest environmentally themed books to keep everyone entertained as they begin the new semester.



SOS in Extreme Danger

A book by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and Energy Research Institute (TERI), which illustrates major environmental changes and impacts like air pollution, global warming, animal extinction, and how humans can help reverse these risks.

To access the book:

<https://www.ead.gov.ae/storage/Post/files/eec685182717cce40fc49d4401a471b4.pdf>

What is next:

Wondering what's coming up next? We have so many exciting opportunities coming up and while we work on them, here are some environmental occasions for you to mark your calendars:

- May 8, 2021 World Migratory Bird day
- May 12, 2021 Zayed Humanitarian day
- May 15, 2021 Endangered Species Day

Share your contributions on these occasions by sharing an image or video on social media while tagging @SSI_UAE and stay tuned for more updates on meeting the experts, virtual tours, and lots of other interactive activities!

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