



Inside SSI

A Forum for Educators
of Sustainability

WELCOME TO INSIDE SSI!

Editor's Column

September 2021 / Edition 32

School is back and we couldn't be more thrilled! As you all progress in your education, you will learn about major world events in History class, or understand current global financial situations in Economics, or even explore the real possibilities of humans living on Mars one day in Science!

With everything you'll learn, always remember the lesson, the Founding Father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Baba Zayed, taught us when he said "We cherish our environment because it is an integral part of our country, our history and our heritage.

On land and in the sea, our forefathers lived and survived in this environment. They were able to do so only because they recognised the need to conserve it, to take from it only what they needed to live, and to preserve it for succeeding generations."

So, as we make our way through yet another school year with excitement and motivation, let's heed to the wise words of Baba Zayed and do our very best to live each day more sustainably.

Best regards,
SSITeam

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

Her Excellency Razan Al Mubarak elected President of the IUCN

Her Excellency Razan Al Mubarak was recently elected President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), one of the world's largest and best-known conservation institutions. She is the first woman from the Arab world to be elected President and is only the second woman to ever preside over the union throughout its 73-year history.

HE Razan Al Mubarak is an inspirational environmental leader in the UAE, who is serving as Managing Director of both the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi; the largest environmental regulator in the region and the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund; one of the world's most important foundations supporting direct species conservation. She will be succeeding China's Zhang Zinsheng in her four-year reign at IUCN.

In other inspirational news, Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Al Dhaheri, secretary-general of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, has been re-elected as Regional Councillor for West Asia at IUCN and will be a member of the new Council of the Federation from 2021-2024. HE Dr Al Dhaheri was the only woman running for re-election, and one of six female candidates from the 28 elected global councillors.

What an inspiration to all aspiring UAE environmentalists!



Sustainable School Initiative: From awareness to ACTION

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Increase environmental management
- Reduce ecological footprints
- Increase environmental handprints
- Empower students
- Grow an environmental network
- Build teachers' capacity
- Provide education beyond the classroom

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Green Schools Audit is how we ensure schools are sustainable in these five vital areas:

1. Water
2. Air
3. Land
4. Energy
5. Waste

- Run environmental eco-clubs to empower students to take responsibility and engage with their community

WHY DO WE DO IT? We do it to:

- Work towards achieving environmental sustainability in schools
- Our cause is committed to conserve and preserve the environment and biodiversity
- Increase learning opportunities for youth on global environmental challenges
- Help develop skills and initiatives that can promote a low-carbon and resilient green economy
- Increase awareness of significant national and international sustainable development strategies, such as:
 1. Plan Abu Dhabi
 2. UAE Centennial 2071
 3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
 4. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- Educate trainers on how to effectively include environmental concepts in school curricula
- Expose students to "hands on" field trips because nothing beats active learning from the environment!



UN Ecosystem Restoration



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

Earlier this year, the UN launched their Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to accelerate action on restoring our planet as much as possible, within the next decade. Ecosystem restoration means recovery of degraded and destroyed ecosystems, as well as conserving ecosystems that are still intact. This includes forests, farmlands, cities, wetlands, and oceans.

The great part is that restoration initiatives can be launched by just about anyone – governments, communities, or individuals.

Are you wondering how?

The UN Ecosystem Restoration Decade has outlined 10 actions that count in its strategy such as:

- 1- Invest in research
- 2- Build up capacity
- 3- Build up the next generation
- 4- Listen and learn

If you would like to learn more, visit <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/strategy>



Green Achiever

Al Ittihad National School Abu Dhabi celebrates the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

The Environmental Club at Al Ittihad National School in Abu Dhabi held activities in September to mark the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. Students, from Grades 1 to 8, participated in this activity to learn about the importance of the ozone layer in the Earth's atmosphere and the risks of ozone depletion. Students were introduced to the substances that cause ozone depletion and they were encouraged to become community ambassadors who advocate for the preservation and protection of the ozone layer.

Share with us your achievements during the new school year

With a new year and semester upon us, we call all schools and teachers to share their achievements! Don't forget to tag us on social media to share all the great things happening at your school.

Celebrating an environmental event at your school? Let us know; we would love to join in on the fun!

All you have to do is email sustainableschools@ead.gov.ae.



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.



The Enviro-Spellathon is an Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi programme that has been held annually since 2001 in schools across Abu Dhabi. The programme aims to enhance knowledge of native flora and fauna, as well as improve language skills and understanding of environmental issues through a structured academic exercise.

Fun facts about the Enviro-Spellathon:

1. It's a sustained programme that is designed to suit different learning levels for younger and older children.
2. The programme provides a structured route to learning about environmental issues
3. It accelerates eco-literacy as well as enhances language and vocabulary skills
4. It instills positive environmental behaviours and ethics amongst children for a sustainable future
5. The programme offers seven levels for students from 5 years to 13 years (KG- Grade 6) in both Arabic and English:
 - Waste for Junior Level (Nurse School/Kinder Garten, 4-5 Years),
 - Wildlife of the UAE for Level 1 (5-6 Years)
 - Wildlife in the Cities for Level 2 (6-7 Years)
 - Wildlife of the Desert for Level 3 (7-8 Years)
 - Wildlife of the Seas for Level 4 (8-9 Years)
 - Water is precious for Level 5 (9-10 Years)
 - Managing our Waste for Level 6 (10-13 Years)

Want to learn more about our Enviro-Spellathon? Check out our website! <https://www.ead.gov.ae/Join-the-Movement/Schools-and-Campuses/i-Enviro-Spellathon>

All Things Sustainable

Save Planet Mission: Conservation

The book series focuses on climate change and aims to educate children in the UAE on its causes and effects. Children can learn about their responsibility to the environment, nature's order in our ecosystem and how all our actions have an impact on our environment, which will help them make more environment-friendly decisions in the future. The UAE works towards educating future generations to acquire life skills that will help them tackle environmental issues in the future.

<https://www.ead.gov.ae/-/media/Project/EAD/EAD/Documents/Resources/Save-Planet-Earth---Mission-Conservation.pdf>

What is Next?

UN Tide Turner Plastic Challenge launches in October!

Date: 4th of October time: 3:00-4:00pm

The UN Tide Turner Plastic Challenge motivates youth to think about how much plastic they use and to raise awareness on how plastic pollution is a threat to life in oceans and on land.

Interested in joining the challenge? Click on the link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZcqcO2orzsoHNaQKnAH2VmhnZ90_x0doHVP

International and Environmental Days

- October 4th World Habitat Day
- October 14th International E-Waste Day
- October 24th International Day of Climate Action
- October 27th Sustainability Day

AN INITIATIVE OF



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SPONSORED BY

