A Forum for Educators of Sustainability

WELCOME TO INSIDE SSI!

### Editor's Column

This month is all about gaining knowledge, the UAE celebrates the month of March as National Reading Month. In 2016, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, declared March as the month of reading, the whole country focuses on reading to cultivate a culture of reading in the country.

This year's theme is UAE Reads. The UAE focuses on establishing a reading habit among 50 percent of Emirati adults and 80 percent of school students by the year 2026.

H.E Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Youth, said, "The Reading Month is closely linked to the efforts of the UAE to establish a knowledge-based economy for the country's progress and the well-being of its citizens and prepare for the future.

#### February 2022/Edition 37

Promoting a reading culture in society and driving initiatives aimed at raising the level of intellectual growth among its people are key priorities in the annual agenda of the government and private sectors in the UAE."

Reading is highly beneficial, it enhances neurological functions, expands knowledge, reduces stress, improved focus, and builds up vocabulary and information, and many more.

Start reading, it will benefit you in future. Learn more: <u>Link</u> 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.





### Envirospellathon is back!

Envirospellathon is Back, it has been updated! we converted all books to an electronic application. You can download the updated version now!

In 2001, Envirospellathon Sponsored by Shell and launched to promote Eco literacy around the local flora, fauna through a structured academic exercise for students, and special Needs. Its also available in Braille. Previously 1.8 million students from 92% of Abu Dhabi Schools use Envirospellathon as extracurricular activity. Windows Version: https://sustainableschools.ead.ae/SSI/apps/Envir oSpellathon(WIN).zip AppStore: https://apps.apple.com/ae/app/envirospellathon /id1179331407 Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=c om.envir.spellathon



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# Green Achiever

In this edition we are recognising students across different schools who took part at Young innovators virtual exhibition, congratulations to Um Al Arab school, Al- Talea'a school, and Indian School of Abu Dhabi.

#### **Um Alarab School**

Amena Awadh, a student at Um Alarab School, worked on the smart sustainable class, with the goal of launching it between 2020 and 2022. The sustainable learning classroom was updated to serve as a learning area for a variety of sustainability-related topics. Green Moss Wall, Hydroponics systems, Vertical Gardening Tower, Aquaponics systems, Solar photovoltaic installations, Smart Moisture & Nutrient devices, Upcycled & reclaimed furniture and decorating, Environmental library, Robot Aman, and Full solar panel system symbolise the characteristics of the area. On behalf of preparing and equipping a longterm educational classroom the green wall is made of green algae that feed on air humidity and has a 15-year lifespan, absorbing moisture in the row and purifying the air.

The green corner of the environmental educational class is also productive, and it includes hydroponics and aquaponics using organic elements and nutrients, through which environmental education is provided to students and parents about the role and methods of hydroponics, as well as comparisons between different types, and the possibility of application in schools and homes to replace agriculture using soil in a way that contributes to reducing soil pollution caused by the exploitation of natural resources moreover The crops grown by students and their parents are also tested. To improve students' cognitive and applied skills, there is an educational environmental corner inside the sustainable educational classroom and in the front wing of the classroom. It has recycled furniture (car tire and old wood sessions), airpurifying plants, a corner for collecting water to reuse in cleaning, and a corner for collecting empty plastic containers and assembling them at the recycling center before sending them to a specialized recycling company to reduce waste pollution.



# Green Achiever

#### Al-Talea'a school

12 B students from Al- Talea'a school, supervised by Sara Al Ansari and Sameera Al Braiki achieved the project Hope which is designing a smart rescue boat without a human crew that provides multiple services such as: electric charger, fuel, first aid bag, food basket, and GPS system in addition to providing an internal medical emergency bed to transport patients. In addition, the boat is outfitted with batteries that supply renewable energy, ensuring the boat's long-term viability in the ocean. The program is connected to the coast guard system and is specifically developed for rescue purposes. The application gives real-time location information via the users' satellites. It is always receiving the distress signal for urgent rescue as soon as it is issued. The project's target audience includes hunters and tourists, as well as divers and sea explorers of all kinds. The boat is equipped with a lifeguard, a first-aid kit, an electrical charger, and fuel. Several features of the app are listed below: Emergency medical circumstances, battery charging requests, fuel requests, food supply requests, and first-aid common kits.

#### Indian School of Abu Dhabi

Abdullah Nisar, a student in grade 9 at the Indian School of Abu Dhabi, collaborated with the coordinator, Dr. Aditi Hazra, to achieve "THE ECO BOT" MY INTERACTIVE VERTICAL FOREST BOT. The idea of the "vertical forest integrated with Artificial Intelligence" is outlined in this project. The proposal describes the environmental survival of current cities through the use of a new generation of high-rise urban buildings that are totally covered in tree and plant leaves. The Vertical Forest is a prototype building for a new sort of architectural biodiversity that focuses on the link between humans and other species, rather than just humans. The Vertical Forest's concept is that it is a "Home to many species." The building's chat bot will provide information on the overall number of plants, the type of soil, the amount of oxygen emitted each day, and other details.



# All Things Sustainable

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





Did you visit Al Wathba Fossil Dunes? Here are few information about it.

Did you know that Fossil Dunes are sand dunes made up of cemented boulders, that are cross bedded. They consist of outcrops formed by the precipitation of calcium carbonate and other salts from ground water during the glacial period. The formations in the AI Wathba area derive their shape from the interaction between wind force and sediment supply. The reserve is considered first of a kind in UAE and has around 7 km of educational trail, a visitor centre and amphitheatre. The reserve has 1,700 rare fossil dunes. The reserve was developed to preserve natural heritage from 120,000 years old.

Visit the Fossil dunes to enjoy Abu Dhabi's nature!

# All Things Sustainable

# What is Next?

Who`s responsible for Ecosystem Restoration?	Date: 24th March 2022, Time: 10:00am-12:00pm
	As individuals and as a society, we are encouraged to participate in environmental preservation, and to mitigate the consequences of human- caused environmental degradation collectively. Is it the role of governments and the public sectors to implement laws and policies that enforce change top- down? Or should this change begin on a community level? Join us in SCI's International Environmental Youth Debate (Who`s responsible of Ecosystem Restoration?) for a discussion of the two perspectives.
	<u>Click here to register</u>
	Note: Registration is only open for educators and high school students only.
Initiate in integrating sustainable actions.	Date: 29th March 2022, Time: 3:30am-4:30pm
	Join us and our virtual event to know more about Baadr App and start your sustainable journey from now!
	<u>Click here to register</u>
Environmental occasions	National Reading Month - March 2022
	• World Wildlife Day - 03 March
	Global Recycling Day - 18 March
	<ul> <li>International Day of Forests – 21st March</li> </ul>
	World Water Day – 22nd March
	• Earth Hour – 26th March
	Take the chance to celebrate one of the environmental days happening this

Take the chance to celebrate one of the environmental days happening this month!



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