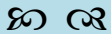


## In this issue:

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## Also in this issue:

**Page 2:** Dates to Remember! TOT Dates, Submission dates and more..

**Page 3-6:** Check out what our SSI students have been doing at various events in the last quarter!

**Page 10:** Read about your chance to win in an UNEP competition!

**Page 11:** Check Out BioBlitz, a program by National Geographic on Biodiversity and Citizen Science.

....And more.

## Editor's Note

Welcome to the latest issue of Multakana!

Hope you all enjoyed your vacations and had a great time! Back to school now, we are sure, you are all geared up for the new academic year and of course the Green Audits and Eco Club Activities!

We have already started our TOT and Eco Club trainings in September and will be having some more in the coming months as you all know. Check out the dates in our Calendar on Page 2.

Do remember this year is the Phase two of our SSI cycle and we are looking forward to your reports and mitigations.

Also, we will be having the SSI Awards in June 2015 and we are sure everyone wants their school to win them!

We are excited to announce our new publications this Quarter and we have some more in line for the next Quarter! Check them out on Page 9.

Do checkout the SSI Success Stories in the newsletter. Tell us how you celebrated the Environmental days in your school.

If you have a success story or interesting sustainable activities from your school to share, do send them to us and we will publish them in the next issue.

All the best for your Audits and Eco Club Projects!

-EAD SSI Team



# Dates to Remember

## Important Environmental Dates to Remember in Quarter 4, 2014:

1<sup>st</sup> October:  
World Habitat Day  
<http://www.unhabitat.org>

14<sup>th</sup> October:  
Arab Environment Day

16<sup>th</sup> October:  
World Food Day

4<sup>th</sup> November:  
Cleanup Arabia Day

20<sup>th</sup> November:  
Universal Children's Day  
[http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/children\\_day](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/children_day)

11<sup>th</sup> December:  
International Mountain Day

## Important SSI Dates to Remember in Quarter 4, 2014:



## The Eco Club Success Story- Al Montaha School

An Eco Club aims to bring about a change in its neighbourhood community and the story of the Al Montaha School makes this a reality.

The school as a part of their air audit noticed a smell in their school area in Mussafah, outside the classroom. On further investigation they found the smell to resemble that of gas and conducted a survey within the community to find the cause of the strong smell. Their search for answers through the survey revealed that it was the gas cylinders kept in storage by a set of restaurants were causing this smell.

The cylinders stored by these restaurants were not being kept as per the instructions and standards of the Abu Dhabi Municipality. The students having realized the cause of the issue started awareness drive within the restaurants in Arabic and English. They also prepared a brochure in Urdu with the help of the school watchman and distributed it with all the restaurant staff.

They then contacted the Abu Dhabi Municipality and sought their help to educate and ensure the restaurant owners followed the proper rules to store their gas cylinders. The Municipality then in turn issued warning letters to these restaurants that were not following the rules and they also awarded the school for their efforts to solve this issue. Although it took them three years, they were finally able to solve a problem and displayed commitment and drive.



## The Green Audit Success Story- Al Maseera School

Al Maseera School joined SSI in 2012 and surprisingly they were able to successfully complete their green school audit accurately the very first time. They realized the issues in the school as a result of the audits and used that information wisely to bring about new sustainable practices in the school.

They introduced new policies inside the school, and conducted awareness campaigns within the school community. The teachers gave lectures and introduced projects involving many school teachers and students in the implementation phase. They received the gold award in the Best Managers Award for the Air Category, primarily for their project on increasing the number of people travelling by shared means and solving the odour issue inside the school.

They also managed to reduce their water consumption and their energy consumption and they also increased their green areas. Moreover they have very clear plans and projects laid out for the next year where they hope to continue on this journey towards sustainability that they have embarked upon.





## The Green Audit Success Story- St. Joseph's School

The St. Josephs School displayed a holistic cohesion in their Green School Audit, especially between the water, waste and land audit all of which enabled them to place in the Gold category. Their Water Audit's "Grey water recycling mechanism" helped them to reduce the water wastage and reuse their grey water from an entire building. This water was then used to increase their green area in the land audit. The school set up a botanical garden to teach the students about plants in their biology lessons. Their Water Audit also ensured an almost complete elimination of bottled water in the school. As a part of the Waste Audit the School composts their organic waste; this further aids the land audit and with increasing the School's green area as they don't have to use any chemical fertilizers to maintain the soil fertility. The school's no plastic bag policy also ensures there is no plastic waste. The waste audit also saw an overall decrease of total waste generated each month from 38 kg to 33.22 kg. As a part of their energy audit, 9 LED bulbs were installed in the corridors helping reduce the electricity consumption by 1116W per day. The motors used for the Grey Water Mechanism are 1hp and are run for just 10 minutes a day. They are controlled by an automatic floating switch which activates the motor when the water reaches a particular level.



## The Eco Club Success Story- Our Own English High School, Al Ain

Apart from the general guidelines the project outlines for an Eco Club which this school followed, such as observing environmental occasions, having regular meetings, taking up internal awareness projects etc.; a key part of Eco Clubs involves having an outreach project that adopts an important issue and reaches out to the community making a tangible difference.

The E-Waste Project from OOEHS achieved this. The students conducted a survey with more than 700 parents and teachers to find out what they did with their e-waste. They realized that almost 80% of people throw their e-waste in the garbage. Hence they conducted an awareness campaign and collected 624 Kg of e-waste from the school community and send it to a company for recycling.

The Eco Club at the school thus identified an issue, acted upon the problem and made a substantial difference towards solving the issue.




**ONE WORLD, ONE TEAM, ONE PURPOSE**  
The Eco Club of Our Own English High School Al Ain

**E-WASTE, A ticking time bomb!**

We love Our Gadgets...  
Do We generate a lot of E Waste?  
Our Survey  
>700 parents and community members surveyed...  
**SHOCKING! What Did We find out?**  
Almost 74-80% respondents throw their E Waste along with other garbage!

**A big campaign!**  
The E Waste Collection Drive  
Parents were asked to send in their old items like old cell phones, video games and electronic toys. The school's E Waste was also collected.  
**624 Kilograms of E WASTE Collected!**  
The E - Waste Recycled!  
Proof - Ask Eco Serve

**The E Waste is not our Only Thing!**

- Heart Rendng Performance on Saving Nature by 180 students for 3000 people.
- 180 students cleaned the Al Massaoud Desert.
- Commemorating Environmental Days; Poster Making, Assembly Presentations and Green Mayhem!
- Junk Food Awareness Campaigns
- Living Desert - Planting Native Saplings in the school garden.



# Interesting Reads



Total number of schools participating in SSI 2013- 2014  
149 and counting!



First Green School Audit Training 2014 Attendance :  
192 Teachers



First Eco Club Training 2014 Attendance:  
57 Schools



ADIHEX Attendance:  
512 Students

## The Enviro Spellathon Program

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) and Shell Abu Dhabi recently renewed their partnership for the Enviro Spellathon Program.

The Enviro Spellathon is an award-winning annual environmental education programme that targets students across Abu Dhabi schools from primary and intermediate levels aged 4 to 13 yrs.

The success of the Enviro Spellathon programme has attracted nearly 1.4 million students across 92% of the schools in Abu Dhabi last year edition alone, EAD distributed over 150,000 awards and certificates to students and coordinators in 366 schools to recognize their efforts.

“A whole generation of students has now grown up with Enviro Spellathon” and we are proud of them all!



# Glimpses of SSI Activities



In Partnership with

Sponsored By



# For Your Information

What is your Sustainability Personality?  
Take this [Quiz](#) and find out!

Check out the Canadian Wildlife  
Federations Newsletter [here](#).

Read the latest Australian Association for  
Environment Education (AAEEE)  
[Newsletter!](#)  
Check out their website [Here](#)

Check out the activities from the Centre for  
Ecoliteracy [here](#).

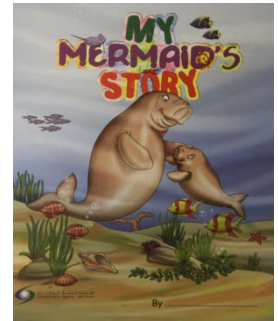
## EAD Endeavors



**Primary Manual**



**Biodiversity Books**



**Dugong Coloring Book**

# Sharing and Learning

## UNEP Launches School Food Waste Competition

Get set to compete for thousands of dollars of prizes as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launches the Think.Eat.Save Student Challenge. The Think.Eat.Save Student Challenge aims to encourage secondary school and university students from around the world to uncover and understand - through the design and implementation of hands-on projects - how much food waste they are producing and the impact it is having on the environment and economy.

Entries must be submitted between **17 September and 16 November 2014**.

More information on the [Think.Eat.Save Student Challenge](http://www.thinkeatsave.org/studentchallenge/) can be found at:

<http://www.thinkeatsave.org/studentchallenge/>





# Sharing and Learning

## bioblitz

What is a Bioblitz? It is a field study in which groups of scientists and citizens study and inventory all the different kinds of living organisms within a given area. It is an example of Citizen Science that we discussed in the last newsletter.

Here's a program by [National Geographic](#) on '[How a bioblitz can help you to understand the biodiversity close to your home or school?](#)'

This video resource showcases students', teachers', and volunteers' perspectives on performing a schoolyard bioblitz. The video highlights participants' experience of discovering biodiversity in their own suburban schoolyard and offers advice on planning the same activity in other classrooms. Reflections from several students and their teacher show the high level of engagement and learning that the schoolyard bioblitz inspired among young students. From the video, educators can get a sense of the materials and participation needed to conduct a schoolyard bioblitz, as well as the potential for student engagement and the improvement of observational skills.

Following are some useful links to the National Geographic Website on the program:

[Description of how to hold a neighborhood/schoolyard bioblitz.](#) :The neighborhood bioblitz activity description provides directions, learning objectives, and suggested background resources for a neighborhood or schoolyard bioblitz.

[Introduction to FieldScope \(free online GIS for citizen science\) and links to specific FieldScope projects.](#) :On the Fieldscope webpage, learn the basics about FieldScope and explore FieldScope projects already in progress. FieldScope is an interactive mapping tool that enables users to explore and document answers to scientific questions.

[Environmental Literacy Guides for teachers.](#) :The National Geographic Environmental Literacy Teacher Guides prepare school teachers of all ages to approach key environmental topics in the classroom. The guides offer background resources for educators, delving deep into specific topics for each guide.

[Online courses: free online professional development for teachers.](#) :These courses, offered on platforms for massive open online courses, include video lectures, interactive quizzes, assessments, and a chance to connect with other students and educators interested in similar subjects. National Geographic's courses aim to support educators in the classroom in improving environmental education. Two upcoming courses include FLOW Education: Facilitating Learning through Outdoor Watershed Education, and Water: The Essential Resource.





# About Us

For any queries or information,  
contact us at: [sustainableschools@ead.ae](mailto:sustainableschools@ead.ae)  
Or visit our [Website](#)

Also Check out our Story Map [here](#), The first of its kind from the Middle East!



@EADTweets



Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi



EnvironmentAbuDhabi

