

# MULTAQANA

## A FORUM FOR EDUCATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY



Welcome to the latest issue of Multakana!

The Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) team extends thanks and appreciation to all those who made fruitful and effective efforts to reduce the ecological footprint of Abu Dhabi through applying the four components of the initiative.

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi has completed the fifth session of SSI (2013 - 2015), which was redesigned to continue the efforts made since the first SSI session 2009 – 2013, which encouraged and empowered the students to focus on the environmental issues we face and work to find creative solutions within 15 months.

According to the reports of this session the participants came from **120** schools in Abu Dhabi, and despite all the challenges, the schools' reports indicated that they have implemented **151** innovative environmental projects aiming to positively affect the community. Around **31,555 students** participated in **302 field trips** to the fragile environments. The greatest achievement was done by the green audit students, who worked on increasing the average of carpooling from **62% to 87%**, and decreased water usage average from **31 to 26.3 litres per capita/day**. They have also achieved a **3%** increase in the green areas at their school. They have exceeded all expectations in sustainable practices (for more information about their sustainable achievements please read page 2).

We are so proud of the sustainable schools' successes; and we are sure we will all be able to achieve Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030, and make it come true.

We hope you continue with the same spirit and hard work and be with us next year.

Now we leave you to enjoy reading this recent issue of our magazine 'Multaqana', which we would like you to share with the largest number of your friends and relatives to inform them about our initiative and your achievements, which helps the community learn about the importance of environmental education and sustainable development.

Sustainable Schools Team  
Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

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## Schools' most prominent sustainability practices

- 55% of all registered schools compost their organic waste
- Over 82% of registered schools recycle their paper, plastic and metal waste
- 81% of registered schools undertake partial recycling of E-waste
- 60% of registered schools reuse or recycle their white and grey waste water
- 55.6% of registered schools use energy efficient equipment and technologies
- 15% of registered schools have initiated the use of renewable energy
- On average, 73% of all students in SSI schools use shared transport.
- 79% of schools have started growing native plants for enhancing the green area in their schools
- 94% of all registered schools have reduced their water use to varying degree
- 88% of registered schools have reduced their bottled water usage

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### Sustainable Schools Initiative Award Ceremony

To coincide with World Environment Day which was under the theme 'Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care', the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi organised the Excellence Awards Ceremony within the Sustainable Schools Initiative 2013 -2015. Around 24 Awards were distributed on the governmental and private schools for their efforts and initiatives to reduce the ecological footprint and introduce the best sustainable practices.

The event was held in Ritz Carlton Hotel Abu Dhabi and attended by H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi; Eng. Hamad Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of ADEC's Private Schools and Quality Assurance Sector; Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Environmental Affairs Officer at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Mohamed Al Nakhi, UAE HSE Lead & Technical Adviser, BP.

The winners in the five categories were recognised, and for the first time in this session, there were cash awards to help the schools make optimum use of the resources inside their premises and enhance their socio-environmental projects. This session also witnessed distributing the awards separately, the governmental schools winners and the private schools winners.

**Lead Schools Category:** These awards were given to the schools that adopted sustainability principles and made them part and parcel of their daily practices. The new challenge they faced is that they took several new schools under their wing and guided them to become more sustainable.

**Green Audit Category:** These Awards were granted to the schools that made the Environment Assessment Test at their schools. These schools haven't only measured their water resources, air quality, land, energy, waste, but they also worked hard to find solutions to decrease their ecological footprint.

**Community Outreach Category:** These Awards were given in recognition to the efforts made by the students to reach the community and make a positive change in their environment.

**Environmental Educator Category:** These awards were given to the environmental educators who gained new skills to integrate environmental education and sustainable concepts into their classes and schools.

**Field Trip Category:** These Awards were granted to the schools that linked their students to their environments and gave them scientific field experiences through the direct contact with nature.

To know more about the achievements of the winning schools in SSI 2013 – 2015 please see the page of sustainable schools success stories.

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### Sustainable Schools initiative winners schools

Category	Position	Government Schools	Private Schools
Best Lead Schools	1st position	Aisha Bint Abi Baker School	Abu Dhabi Indian School
	2nd Position	Al Talee'a School	Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Bangladesh Islamia School
	3rd Position	Qatr Al Nada School	Islamia English School
Best Green Audit	1st position	Al Maseera School	St. Joseph's School
	2nd Position	Al Resala School	Al Adhwa Private School
Best Community Outreach	1st position	Remah School	Emirates Private School
	2nd Position	Al Montaha School	Al Nahda National School for Girls
	3rd Position	Al Huiteen School	Mayoor Private School
Best Environment Educators	1st position	Al Rehab School	Bright Riders School
	2nd Position	Al Maha School	Al Bateen Scientific Private School
Best Outdoor field Education	1st position	Bedaa Al Mutaw'a School	Al Bateen Scientific Private School
	2nd Position	Al Khatim School	Al Bashair Private School

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## SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY 2015 photos



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### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Eco Summit

After the success of the first Eco Club Summit in 2014, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi organised the 2nd Summit to continue its role as a platform for the government and private schools' students in Abu Dhabi and their peers in UAE schools to exchange their creative knowledge and express their opinions and hopes to achieve growth and sustainability.

The summit was attended by 390 students and 130 teachers of 120 schools from all over UAE. This conference is considered a chance for the students to meet, communicate, research, evaluate and treat the environmental effects at schools in addition to giving the chance to the lead schools to showcase their successful experiences in this field.

The theme of this year's summit was 'E-Stemming Innovation for a Safe Future', which was linked to the role of sustainable schools in spreading environmental education and connect it to science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts being taught at schools.

The Summit also hosts inspirational young speakers, such as Fatima Al Kaabi from Sharjah British School. Fatima, who is 13 years old and member in Sharjah Children's Council, is one of the youngest Emirati girl innovators. Regarded as one of the most talented children in UAE, Fatima won Sheikh Hamdan and Sharjah Award for excellence, first place winner in Robot Olympics in UAE and invented a printer for the visually impaired.

Chido Govera, founder of the Future of Hope Foundation, shared her inspiring story of becoming a prominent activist and the obstacles she faced to empower women in Zimbabwe and all over the world .

The world-renowned conservationist, anthropologist and UN messenger of peace and founder of Dr. Jane Goodall humanitarian initiative, 'Roots & Shoots' spoke in the conference.

During the summit, The students showcased innovative projects they implemented to tackle environmental issues within their schools and communities. There were also environmental workshops to enhance and develop the students' skills to meet the needs of the 21st century.

To know more about the summit [\(click here\)](#)

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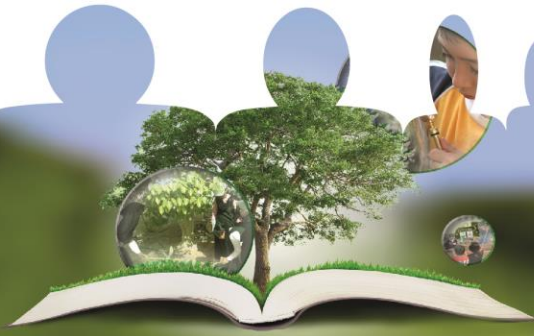


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## The 2nd ECO CLUB SUMMIT Photos



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### Sustainable schools success stories

The schools of our initiative managed to balance between their educational priorities and their hope to have a sustainable environment. How did they manage to achieve this harmony and what were their projects that helped them be more sustainable? What have they learnt and gained from their experiences?

The following pages include the SSI participants' success stories based on the categories they excelled at (Lead Schools, Green Audit, Community Outreach, Environmental Educators, Field Trips)

**Lead school category : Aisha Bint Abi Baker School, Abu Dhabi Indian School, Al Talee'a School Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Bangladesh Islamia School, Qatr Al Nada School & Islamia English School.**

These schools have successfully integrated the four components of SSI into the DNA of their school – they do their Green Audit regularly, go on Field Trips, attend Training of the Trainer sessions to become better environment educators, and also have Eco Clubs that do internal and community projects to contribute positively to the environment. They have graduated to the next level of being a Sustainable School – this year, the teachers and students took several new schools under their wing and guided them to become more sustainable. Watch the students speak of their experiences of taking the lead, and the challenges they faced ([Click here](#))

**Outdoor field Education Category: Bedaa Al Mutaw'a School, Al Bateen Scientific Private School, Al Khatim School & Al Bashair Private School.**

This year, a total of 31,555 students across Abu Dhabi Emirate were exposed to outdoor field education through 302 field trips as a part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi. The students visit interesting spots around Abu Dhabi, such as: Masdar City, Al Wathba Wetlands Reserve, the Eastern Mangroves, to name a few – and learn in the field about various scientific and environmental concepts. Watch the best schools in this category speak of their experiences ([click here](#))

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## Sustainable schools success stories

### Environment Educators Category: Al Rehab school, Bright Riders school, Al Maha school & Al Bateen Scientific private school

The teachers of these schools attended training sessions at the Environment Agency, along with 400+ other teachers from across Abu Dhabi, to learn new skills to become more effective Environment Educators. Watch the impact of the new teaching methods on the teachers & students:

Al Rehab School [\(Click here\)](#)

Bright Riders School [\(click here\)](#)

Al Maha School [\(click here\)](#)

Al Bateen Scientific Private School [\(Click here\)](#)

### Best Community Outreach Category:

#### Remah School

In addition to executing several internal projects at the school, the students of the school have also reached out to the community of farm owners around the Remah and Bu Samra areas to conserve water by fixing broken water tanks and pipes in their fields. The students volunteered their time and efforts to help with the repairs and raised awareness among the farm owners and workers to achieve a reduction in water consumption. To Know more about the school project [\(click here\)](#).

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### Sustainable schools success stories

#### Best Community Outreach Category:

##### Al Montaha School

In addition to executing several internal projects such as segregating waste and collecting electronic waste, the students of the school have also reached out to the community to find a solution to the problem of pest and cockroach infestation in their school and residential area of Mussaffah, Abu Dhabi. To Know more about the school project [\(Click here\)](#).

##### Al Nahda National School for Girls

In addition to executing several internal projects throughout the year, the students also observe an annual sustainability eco fair. This year, the theme of the Sustainability Fair was “Water” and the school invited students from several other schools to participate in the awareness building exercise through an exhibition and workshop. To Know more about To Know more about the school project [\(Click here\)](#).

##### Al Huiteen School

In addition to executing several internal projects at the school, the students of the Eco Club have also reached out to the community by launching a Hydroponics Farming project. This video outlines their process and the challenges they faced in trying to adopt this water-efficient method of agriculture for their community. To Know more about the school project [\(Click here\)](#)

##### Mayoor Private School

In addition to executing several internal projects such as conducting their green audit, the students of the youngest Eco Club of Abu Dhabi also decided to find a solution to the problem of waste dumped in the areas around their school. Watch the first step of their “Clean Up Al Wathba” project in which they reach out to the community to by visiting a Labourers Accommodation in the area to create awareness. To Know more about the school project [\(Click here\)](#)

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### Sustainable schools success stories

#### Best Green Audit Category:

##### Al Maseera School

The students of the school conducted a “Green Audit” to measure their use of land, water, air, energy and waste. They had long been struggling with the problem of pigeon droppings in and around the school which affected the air quality at the school. The students brainstormed and found a way to collect this pigeon waste (nearly 200kg in a few months!) and convert it to manure. Watch the students speak passionately about the project & what they learn [\(click here\)](#).

##### St. Joseph’s School

The students of the school conducted a “Green Audit” to measure their use of land, water, air, energy and waste. Although their use of water was within permissible levels for a day-boarding school, they attempted to reduce their water consumption and recycle the “grey water” to plant and sustain a school garden. Watch a film [\(click here\)](#) to know how the students did it.

##### Al Resala School

The students of the school conducted a “Green Audit” to measure their use of land, water, air, energy and waste. On observing the amount of waste water generated by the Air Conditioning system of the school (nearly 200 litres each day), the students decided to recycle this water and use it for cleaning and watering their gardens. Watch the students speak of the challenges they faced in executing this project [\(click here\)](#).

##### Al Adhwa Private School

The students of the school conducted a “Green Audit” to measure their use of land, water, air, energy and waste. To reduce their carbon footprint and make their school more sustainable, they divided themselves into teams to reduce their use of each of these resources and also recycle them. The school has its own compost pit where they generate manure to maintain their gardens, and they also segregate their waste and dispose it correctly. Watch the students speak about their experiences & projects [\(click here\)](#).

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### Sharing and learning Sustainable Schools Initiative and GIS 'Proactive power Detectives'



In continuation to the success achieved since the launch of the GIS programme as part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) launched a new challenge to the SSI students in UAE, where they monitor the locations of electricity waste via data collection application developed by EAD. This challenge aims at increasing the students' awareness through new technologies to face electricity waste behaviours and educate the community on its consequences.

Results were Amazing as 120 students showed interest in the programme and 540 participations were recorded including 326 related to light, and 91 home electric devices, 65 ACs, 17 water heater and 41 other things.

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## Environment Occasions

In conjunction with the Biodiversity Day, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi issued a biodiversity series to enhance the youth awareness on issues related to natural heritage and environment locally and globally.

This series consists of six books and targets students between 8 – 15 years. It highlights the threatened animals and plants with scientific facts on them, in addition to their current status, the threats and risks they face. Each book tackles biodiversity from a different perspective; one of them is on wild animals, the other is about birds, the third tackles marine life, the fourth is on the reptiles, the fifth is about the amphibians and the sixth in on Plants Kingdom.

This series is considered an important reference to the students and teachers . It aims at enhancing and supporting the schools' curricula. This series will be issued in Arabic and English and then to be distributed to the schools' libraries and there will be an electronic copy of them on EAD website

[www.ead.ae](http://www.ead.ae).



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## Important Dates to Remember in Quarter 3, 2015

16th September:

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

### The Heat is on!

Summer is here and so are vacations! We are sure by now you have a mitigation plan ready for your school! Don't forget to remind the caretakers of your schools to follow the plan while you are on vacation. Sustainability does not take a vacation.

Make sure you remind them to:

1. Switch off/ Turn down A/Cs when not required
2. Switch off all faucets and water controls for unused areas
3. Take this opportunity to clean the Coolers
4. Keep the composting activity going on

### Interesting Links

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

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For any queries or information,  
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