



EEG and McDonalds UAE, carry out the third round of tree planting under the “Planting for a Greener Future”



EEG’s discusses “Sustainable Consumption and Production” at Ramadan Majlis.

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EEG meets with its board members

EEG felicitates ECO Champions

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## *Walking the spiritual and sustainable path together...*

– Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Ramadan arrived and is almost finished! With this blessed month came an occasion to be with our loved ones as family, friends, and neighbours. To sharing in the spirit of bonding that Ramadan inspires. Community bonds are strengthened in this great time of sharing. Our livelihoods, our neighbourhood's, in fact our entire environment, benefits from this beautiful practice, because peace and goodwill achieve a higher meaning and strive for greater goals when sustained by the spiritual discipline of fasting.

However, some people do not understand the true essence of this holy month. During the time of Iftar, the not so holy habit of food wastage resulting from the amount of meals cooked and products purchased for the same is against the core principle of Ramadan. Last year, relevant government entities recorded that food consisted of 55 percent of all the waste that went into UAE landfills, an increase from the average of 33-38 percent.

To shed light on this important issue of consumption and production of food amongst other resources, EEG organised a Ramadan Panel discussion in Ras Al Khaimah at the Majlis of H.E. Engineer Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Department in Ras Al Khaimah. It was a unique gathering of the best minds and the discussions were highly thought provoking and motivating. Some really good insights on UAE's approach towards Sustainable Consumption and Production were also shared. Read all about it on **page 3** of this issue.

June marked the 42<sup>nd</sup> celebration of the World Environment Day and as a tradition EEG celebrated this unique day by felicitating its eco champions. The tradition goes back to the time when we clearly started to feel the need to publicly recognize the efforts of all the eco-warriors that day in and day out took small actions that had a big impact. Our annual awarding ceremony acknowledges this commitment and rewards those with highest annual contributions of recyclables.

This year's award ceremony was held in Ajman and had its share of VIP guests, participants, sponsors and partners. Around 250 people turned up at the popular event, which also featured the winners of the annual Environmental Drawing Competition 2016. More details and pictures can be found on **page 2** of this issue.

The month also saw EEG's ISO 14001 periodic audit being carried out and I am happy to announce that we have successfully been recertified. Under review was EEG's environmental management system and how it has helped to address the various environment related issues pertaining to the operations of the organization. June also witnessed the 15<sup>th</sup> Board Members meeting where in EEG shared with the board the achievement and discussed future projects with the members of the board.

June was yet another busy month in terms of the events EEG took part in, and the various stages at which we engaged with the community. We were happy to meet, talk, share and exchange thoughts and ideas with many spirited individuals and committed organizations. Here in the EEG office we met many like-minded people and organizations, and also welcomed new interns and members. June was an eventful month for us and we hope that the oncoming summer months turn out to be, even more active, especially with our various ongoing and upcoming summer programmes.

In ending I urge you to continue to look for ways to make the lessons of Ramadan, whether spiritual or scientific stay with us for the whole year, for the two are intrinsically combined in all the wisdom of Almighty Allah; and the knowledge that sprouts from his teachings. Let this be an occasion not for excesses, but of responsible consumption and sustainable lifestyles.

Let Ramadan bring us together for a better environment!

### 11<sup>th</sup> cycle of Dubai International Award for Best Practice announced

On 1<sup>st</sup> of June EEG attended a press conference that announced the launch of the 11<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Dubai International Award for Best Practices. The new cycle was officially launched under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of Dubai, Minister of Finance and President of Dubai Municipality. These awards provide an opportunity to gain global recognition for Best Practices to improve the Living Environment. These awards are given to best practices of organisations that:

- Have a demonstrable and tangible impact on improving people’s quality of life;
- Are the result of effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of society;
- Are socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.

The award is open to all sectors: national and regional governments; local authorities and their associations; non-governmental organizations; multilateral agencies; community based organizations; research and academic institutions; public and private foundations; media entities and individuals. For more information about the award including registration form please visit the following website: <http://www.dubaiaward.ae/wps/portal/DIABP>

### EEG felicitates ECO Champions

Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) once again marked the World Environment Day by celebrating and showcasing the efforts of various corporates, educational institutions and individual members towards protecting the environment. The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Awarding ceremony was held in association with Ajman Tourism Development Department on 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2016 at Ajman Museum. This event encouraged and felicitated the participants and winners of the various waste management and art programs in a ceremony that attracted over 250 attendees including noted dignitaries from the government and private sector. A total of 70 Recycling Awards and 27 Art Awards were conferred on the day.

Year on year, EEG uses this platform to spread the message of environmental responsibility, and brings to light the champions whose commendable efforts have not just made the programmes successful, but have made a big difference in the field on environmental sustainability. The total tally of quantity collected in EEG’s eight recycling and collection campaigns on Paper, Plastic, Cans, Glass, Toners, Battery, Beverage cartons and Mobile phones were revealed. The amount of waste collected in 2015 through these eight campaigns helped mitigate 5,353.43 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, saved 39,342 Million BTU of Energy, saved 9,184 m<sup>3</sup> of landfill space, saved 28,330 trees from being felled and saved 34,769 gallons of oil.

The ceremony saw a gathering of VIPs, delegates and prominent figures across the UAE along with the top ten participants across EEG’s 8 Recycling Campaigns. This event holds great significance as it encourages action and awareness towards environmental causes, an objective of the United Nation’s World Environment Day. The outstanding outcomes of our various recycling programmes are a testament of the sheer passion, hard work and the commitment of the green champions, where EEG aims to touch the psyche of people and get them to imbibe the concept of recycling to become routine in their daily lives through the various programs.

The audience was welcomed by the creative display of the winning entries of the Environmental Drawing Competition that targeted students from 6-11 years so as to instil a sense of environmental responsibility at a young and impressionable age. It was a platform that provided students with a canvas to deliberate on and depict environment-friendly lifestyle choices in a creative manner. The themes for this year’s competition were “Sharing our Planet” and “Responsible Consumption”. The event attracted participation from 203 schools with a total of over 800 drawings.

This year the competition saw a special category for children with special needs. Each recycling and collection campaign’s awards was divided into three subcategories: corporations, academic institutions, and families/individuals. The first place winners for each category are listed:

	Academic Institution	Company	Individual
Paper	Our Own High School, Al Warqa'a, Dubai	Petrofac International Limited	Nicole Ann George
Aluminium Cans	United International Private School, Dubai	Emirates Flight Catering	Amiteash Paul
Plastic	Mzeiraa School, Ajman	Khadamat Facilities Management	Jayant Ramganesch
Glass	Sharjah Indian School, Sharjah	Fairmont Hotel Dubai	Maryam Malalla Ahmed
Toner	American University of Sharjah, Sharjah	McDonald's UAE	Nityashri Sankaran
Battery	Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi	Khadamat Facilities Management	Geerthana Muthu
Mobile Phones	Our Own High School, Al Warqa'a, Dubai	Case Services Administration Department Dubai Public Prosecution	Anneeka Paul
Beverage Containers	Dubai Gem Private School	Grand Hyatt Dubai	Maryam Ehtesham



## EEG Chairperson encourages the young achievers at Our Own High School, Al Warqa'a

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June EEG Chairperson, Mrs. Habiba Al Marashi attended the Annual Awarding Ceremony at the Our Own High School - Al Warqa'a as a guest of honour. The ceremony is an annual event that recognises the remarkable achievements of the students from the school. Mrs. Al Marashi in her address shared words of encouragement with students and guests. Her words were an attestation of the success and hope for the future accomplishments of the students. Mrs Al Marashi urged the students to challenge themselves academically and to embrace their originality and leadership. OOHS- Al Warqa'a is an active academic member of EEG and participates in various waste management initiatives. For the year 2015 the school was amongst the top three winners in Paper, Plastic, Aluminium Cans and Mobile Phone recycling campaigns. Through their collective efforts the students managed to mitigate 170.5 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and saved 1186.82 BTU of Energy, 192 m<sup>3</sup> of landfill space and saved 1,232 trees from being felled. Addressing the young environmentalists Mrs Al Marashi encouraged the young eco-champions to keep up such efforts and educate their peers to join the green movement with a special focus on reduction in consumption habits and food wastages.

## Presentation to FEWA on World Environment Day

The World Environment Day, held on 5<sup>th</sup> June each year is a celebration of sustainable development throughout the globe where mankind contributes towards making a positive change to environment. It signifies the importance of preserving the environment and serves as a platform to educate people around the world through means of action. Federal Electricity and Water Authority (FEWA) celebrated this day at their Dubai office and as a part of the celebration invited EEG to deliver a dialogue session and educate their staff about Green Office practices. The objective was to share with 30 FEWA employees best practices to reduce their waste, water and energy consumption in an office environment. EEG used the occasion of Ramadan to speak about the sustainable consumption and production of food, which is also one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. EEG delivered an interactive session and highlighted some solid facts about the wastage of resources in an office environment within UAE. The audience was given simple and practical solutions to reduce their consumption and wastage of food, energy and water, which was well received. The session left the staff motivated and many of them promised to make a conscientious effort to put the simple steps into practice which in turn would help reduce their carbon footprint.

## Increasing Green Spaces within UAE

In another celebration of the World Environment Day, EEG and McDonalds UAE, carried out the third round of tree planting under the "Planting for a Greener Future" Campaign on 6/6/16 in the Emirate of Umm Al Quwain at Umm At Quwain Girls School for Basic Education. Once again EEG planted 50 indigenous trees after preparing the land with sweet soil, fitting an irrigation system and laying a grass turf. Under phase 2 of this initiative EEG and McDonalds UAE have managed to plant a total of 150 trees in three schools across UAE, converting approximately 1672 Sq. Ft. of land area into a Green Patch. The next phase of the planting will take place in October 2016. So far the plantation has been successfully completed in the following schools and Emirates:

	The Emirate	Name of the School
1	Abu Dhabi	Al Asemah School for Primary Education
2	Ajman	Umm Ammar School for Basic Education for Girls
3	Umm Quwain	Umm Al Quwain Girls School for basic Education

After the final plantation the 350 trees that will be planted under this initiative will help mitigate 2.89 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions upon maturity. Such initiatives are the key to increase awareness amongst the youth about the importance of developing and maintaining sustainable green patches throughout the UAE and how the efforts of each individual counts to make a difference.

## EEG's Ramadan Majlis

To celebrate the holy month of Ramadan and maintain a continuous connection and communication with various segments of the society, EEG in association with Ras Al Khaimah Public Works and Services Department, organised its first Ramadan Majlis on the historic date of 16/6/16 at 'the Majlis' of H.E. Engineer Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Department in Ras Al Khaimah. The panel discussion was themed "Sustainable consumption and production" - which is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The discussions were themed around the important issues of availability of resources, food wastage, food security, waste management and environmental sustainability. H.E. Al Qasimi welcomed the guests and opened the discussion whilst speaking about the founder of UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (God Bless his Soul) - his interest in the environment and how he placed great importance in laying the foundation of sustainability for the UAE.



In leading the discussions further Mr Abdulaziz Al Midfa, EEG's vice-chair, spoke about human civilization and how the society move from an agricultural society to an industrial society has damaged the natural ecosystem at every stage of development. Mr Al Midfa took the audience through the global platform, whilst trying to address this issues and concluded with a focus on UAE and the contribution of the leadership in placing the UAE at the forefront of sustainable development. Eng. Hassan Makki, permanent member of EEG, spoke about the fast paced growth of the country within the different sectors and how that has led to the generation of high volumes of waste.

H.E. Juma Mohammed Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Economy, spoke about the strategies of the UAE government and focused on the role played by the private sector. The moderator then opened the floor for discussion. The event was attended by eminent guests and speakers which included H.E. Juma Mohammed Kait, H.E. Eng. Ahmed Mohammed Al Hammadi, Director General of the Public Works Department in Ras Al Khaimah, EEG's Chairperson, Mrs Habiba Al Marashi, Vice-Chair Mr Abdul Aziz Al Midfa and Eng Hassan Makki, Director of Sewerage & Irrigation Network Department, Dubai Municipality and permanent member of EEG to name a few. The event was moderated by the famous Emirati Media Personality Mr Rashid Al Kharji, and was well attended with over 80 guests who actively engaged in the various discussions.

In his closing remarks H.E. Sheikh Al Qasimi said that the UAE was turning into a green patch and that the focus on the environment is embedded within all its components. He urged the audience to make a sound decision and choose with the intention to involve individuals in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021 and to achieve its aspirations, thus assuring each individual the opportunity to express their opinions and views.

### *UNCCD and EEG Celebrate World Day to Combat Desertification*

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) marked this year's World Day to Combat Desertification (WCD) on June 17<sup>th</sup> under the theme of 'Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People.' This year's theme advocates for the importance of inclusive cooperation to restore and rehabilitate degraded lands and contribute towards achieving the overall Sustainable Development Goals. Land has been an overlooked component in sustainable development for years. After much delay it is being viewed as a vital link to provide solutions to cope with many other development challenges such as climate change, secure water and energy resources, promoting inclusive growth, and so on.

In an effort to engage the different members of the society and encourage them to take action towards combating desertification, and create awareness at the grass roots level on the need to preserve the environment, EEG launched a special project titled: "Recycle. Reforest. Repeat." The campaign started on 16/6/16 and will run till the 16/7/16. As a part of the campaign registered participants are required to collect paper for recycling. Those participants who meet the target will be awarded mounted certificates by the EEG Chairperson. In keeping with the tradition, EEG has also created a poster to spread awareness about the theme and objectives of WCD 2016. Copies of the posters are distributed at EEG events and exhibitions throughout the year to reach out to corporate and individual members as well as the general public. Visit the office and grab your copy today!

### *Habiba Al Marashi's appointment to the World Green Building Council*

Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) is an independent forum that aims to preserve the environment by strengthening and promoting sustainable practices related to green buildings in the UAE through the activation of its participation in the development of the global agenda for the environment and sustainable buildings. The strong involvement of the Council was clearly demonstrated through the appointment of Habiba Al Marashi, co-founder, treasurer and member of EGBC, as a member of the membership committee of World Green Building Council which is network of green building councils for more than 100 countries. In this regard, Habiba Al Marashi stated: "Surely, this appointment is a great honor for us to represent our country at the World Green Building Council. It is also a suitable opportunity to work with experts who are committed to green buildings around the world, and share our knowledge and experiences".

### *EEG meets with its board members*

The 15<sup>th</sup> session of EEG's Board Members Meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June at the EEG office which saw a full house of participation. The attendees were given a detailed update about the various activities successfully completed by EEG in the first half of the year.

The Chairperson also briefed the board about the upcoming and planned events for the second half of 2016. In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, EEG has launched various special projects, the details of which were shared with the board. The chairperson stressed on the effectiveness of EEG's campus and corporate outreach engagements which saw the organization actively engaging with its different stakeholders since the beginning of the year. The board members expressed their committed and continued support to EEG.



### *ISO 14001*

EEG's ISO 14001 periodic audits was carried out by the certification body DNV on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016. Under review was EEG's environmental management system and how it has helped to address the various environment related issues pertaining to the operations of the organization. The auditor marked a noteworthy effort for the way the system were being managed.

The nature of EEG's work implies a positive impact; however EEG is always cognizant of the potential environmental impact of its activities. This has resulted in green office practices, and also efforts to manage the environmental impact of organising events; such as use of biodegradable garbage bags in the office and for clean-up campaigns, carbon offsetting of the corporate Gala Dinner and environmental education programmes, use of recycled paper, reduction and reuse of paper consumption, minimizing energy and water consumption in the office, and many more. Prior to the review the staff were also given the mandatory annual "Office Safety" and "Fire Safety" trainings. With this EEG has successfully achieved the re-certification of its Environmental Management System. It is worth noting that EEG is the first NGO of its kind in the world to be accredited with this certification.

About the ISO 14001: The ISO sets out the criteria for an environmental management system and maps out a framework that a company or organization can follow to set up an effective environmental management system. It can be used by any organization regardless of its activity or sector. Using ISO 14001 can provide assurance to company management and employees as well as external stakeholders that environmental impact is being measured and improved.

### *Your Can for a Tree*

The "Your Can for a Tree" Initiative was first launched in 2012 for two months and was later extended to the months of April to June 2013. The initiative strongly advocates and focuses on recycling aluminium cans and provides opportunities to deposit specific amounts to be eligible to plant an indigenous tree under the contributor's name. The initiative has had a strong impact since its inception; and provided a platform to all committed corporations, academic institutions, families and government entities to contribute to the sustainable growth of the nation.

Participation for the year 2016 was high and saw a good amount of Cans being deposited into the office. The entities who were able to deposit the required amounts of aluminium cans between April to June will now get a chance to plant trees under their name in a specified location in UAE during EEG's Annual Tree planting initiative on 16/12/16. This year's initiative witnessed a successful turnout of 62 participants from across the country. The initiative enabled EEG to recycle 7,069 kg of Aluminum Cans resulting in 106 GHG MTCO2E mitigation, 471 MWH worth of energy being saved and 172 cubic meters of landfill space saved. A total of 22 participants have qualified to plant a tree under this initiative.

## *ENOC achieves financial savings of about 17 million dirhams during 2015*

Emirates National Oil Company 'ENOC', EEG's strategic Educational Partner reported achieving financial savings worth AED 17 million costs during 2015, exceeding the estimated savings target by 7.7, by the implementation of the of energy efficiency standards. The percentage increase in savings through 2015 recorded a 155% savings of the total achieved in 2014. In appreciation to the staff for their commitment to energy efficiency, 'ENOC' recently organised the 'ENOC Annual Energy Awards' to felicitate the winners. 'ENOC' has launched in 2008 the Energy and Resources Management Programme, which aims to improve the Group's performance in the energy and resource management, through the implementation of the program strategies within their operations. The company then attached to the program, a detailed policy and a framework for action and an instruction manual to enable the subsidiaries of the group to apply for the Energy and Resource Management program.

## LOCAL NEWS

### *UAE reaffirms commitment to reduce its footprint by aiming to produce cheaper power*

The largest solar energy projects in the world (situated in one location) has been operated and managed by DEWA in Seih Dahl zone through the joint cooperation between Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and the Ministry of Energy. The first phase recorded a production capacity of 13 MW in October 2013, while the second phase capacity is expected to reach 200 MW by April 2017. Recently H.E. Saed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA announced his plans to create a sustainable future for Dubai at a press conference held in June at the Burj Khalifa. According to the new plans, within the next 5 years, Dubai aims to have built the largest Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) project on a single site- outshining the largest existing CSP tower based in Morocco. CSP is generated by heliostats- mirrors- that focus sunlight onto a central collection tower, stimulating a steam turbine into producing energy.

The first phase of the CSP is to be operational by 2021 and Dubai hopes that once completed, this specific power plant will create 1,000 MW of power by 2030. Furthermore, concentrated solar power can be stored up to 12 hours, allowing for a sufficient supply of energy through the nighttime. The CSP project is part of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy, in which Dubai aims to generate 75% of its power through renewable energy by 2050. The CSP plant will be based in the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum solar park and will deliver inexpensive power at 8 US cents per kilowatt hour. The solar park promises to greatly reduce carbon emissions and keep Dubai in line with the goals set at the Paris Agreement. Al Tayer added that this project will be followed by many others as Dubai hopes to diversify the sources of energy used in order for it to achieve the status of a world class sustainable city.

This comes within the framework of the leadership strategy in promoting sustainability and green economy, through diversification of energy sources by increasing the renewable and clean energy share to contribute to the protection of the environment, by reducing the effects of carbon emissions, and building a knowledge-based economy.

This also comes in parallel with The Dubai Supreme Council of Energy launching of the Energy Requisition Programme under the Dubai Energy Efficiency Programme, which aims to reduce the energy demand and consumption of Dubai by 30% in 2030. Demand Energy follows enabling mechanisms that are in line with international best practices and similar programs carried out around the world- including institutions, capacity-building, public awareness and appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, information systems, and measurement and funding mechanisms for the Emirate of Dubai.

### *Color- Coded recycling centers revealed*

The Dubai Municipality recently revealed their new color coded recycling center and is located in the parking lot of Al Manara Center on Sheikh Zayed Road. Nicknamed "Smart and Sustainable Oasis Recycling Center" the facility operates 24x7 and its objective is to motivate residents to embrace a culture of recycling. The first phase of the project hopes to see 12 more centers opening in other densely located areas. Director- General of the Dubai Municipality, announced that one of the main purposes of these centers is to diminish the amount of waste directed at landfills. The slogan of these centers is 'Take part in recycling waste and give us a new life cycle' and aspires to encourage people to efficiently recycle 15 different types of waste. These centers are technologically advanced allowing them to operate at maximum efficiency while using clean energy and sustainable materials to function.

### *Local Engineers spread sustainable practices in the community*

Two local engineers worked towards spreading sustainability to reduce consumption during the month of Ramadan by launching a voluntary initiative to exploit the leftovers and turn it into fodder for livestock and organic fertilizer. The two engineers initiated the idea which came to them during their participation in the Green Council for Youth Project, within the sustainable university initiative launched by the Environment Agency in Abu Dhabi. They thought of a way to contribute to an effective, committed, and environmentally conscious community to translate it into a positive behavior by contributing to the preservation of the environment. The underlined idea is to separate the remains of bread from food, and distribute it to the farmer, as it is considered a ready cattle food, while the leftovers is buried within environmental friendly sanitary landfills. Other types of food is burnt within the environmental furnaces to convert it into organic fertilizer. The engineers pointed out that the initiative aims to reduce waste which usually increases more during Ramadan, implement sustainability ideas, and encourage the community to practice it.

### *Zayed's legacy comes alive through sustainable projects*

Founded in honour of the principles held by the late Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of UAE, the Zayed Future Energy Prize has helped to support several environmental initiatives around the world – benefiting more than 202 million people – with the winners of the prize voicing their gratitude for the occasion of Zayed Humanitarian Day. Zayed Humanitarian Day, which falls on the 19th day of Ramadan – the day Shaikh Zayed passed away – is to honour the memory of Shaikh Zayed and the humanitarian work and policies he made during his lifetime. Key among those policies was the protection of the environment. As such, the Zayed Future Energy Prize was announced in 2008 to uphold and preserve that legacy of Shaikh Zayed.

Dr Nawal Al Hosany, Director of the Zayed Future Energy Prize said that "One of the things that stands out about this Prize is the transformative platform that it offers the winners. Not a week goes by without one of our former winners gaining more recognition for the work they are doing, and this says a lot about the positive impact of the prize". Al Hosany noted that the Zayed Future Energy Prize was playing a critical role for the future when it comes to clean and sustainable energy.

### *Evaluate Land to Halt Annual Loss of 24 Billion Tonnes of Fertile Soil, Expert Panel Says*

Released in Beijing at a high-profile event to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification, the International Resource Panel (IRP)'s latest report says that evaluating the long-term potential of land will help the world sustainably meet this demand. The report suggested that the world needs to improve the way land is evaluated in order to unlock its true potential and reverse the alarming pace of land degradation, like the loss of 24 billion tonnes of fertile soil and 15 billion trees every year.

Titled "Unlocking the Sustainable Potential of Land Resources: Evaluation Systems, Strategies and Tools" the report looks at a series of tools that can help policy makers and land managers unlock the full potential of land, allowing them to use resources more efficiently. Revealing some hard facts the report listed that Erosion, nutrient depletion; acidification, salinization, compaction and chemical pollution have left 33 per cent of the world's soils either moderately or highly degraded. If current conditions continue, then 320-849 million hectares of land will be converted to cropland by 2050 at the expense of the world's savannahs, grasslands and forests. As a result, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture may increase from 24 per cent to 30 per cent.

As the global population expands, climate change intensifies and more people move to urban areas, it will become increasingly difficult to sustainably produce enough food, fuel and fibre to meet demand without further depleting the world's finite land resources. The aim is to maintain or increase the amount of healthy and productive land available today by preventing future land degradation while increasing the efficiency of our current land management practices. Evaluating the land's potential to ensure sustainable development in the right places, using the right practices is key to achieving this.

### *EU Member States agree on joint steps on environmental protection*

On 20<sup>th</sup> of June, EU Environment Ministers endorsed the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. This Action Plan sets out a comprehensive list of actions to ensure a coordinated response to illegal wildlife crime. These actions include preventing wildlife trafficking, addressing its root causes, implementing existing regulations, and strengthening the global partnership of source, consumer and transit countries against wildlife trafficking.

Ministers took several decisions related to the Circular Economy EU Action Plan among which they called upon the Commission to propose robust measures to reduce plastic debris in the marine environment as part of the announced plastic strategy by 2017. IUCN supports the proposal for a ban on micro-plastic particles in cosmetics and the invitation to the Commission and the Member States to promote nature- and bio-based solutions in the same Circular Economy context. A statement on the ratification of the Paris Agreement, the global legally-binding agreement on climate change adopted in December 2015 was also adopted by EU Ministers. You can find more details about this on <https://www.iucn.org/news/eu-member-states-agree-joint-steps-environmental-protection>

### *First Mammal Species Goes Extinct Due to Climate Change*

According to a recent report a small rodent that lived on a single island off Australia is likely the world's first mammal to be a casualty of climate change. The Bramble Cay melomys (*Melomys rubicola*) seems to have disappeared from its home in the Great Barrier Reef. The animal was last seen by a fisherman in 2009, but failed attempts to trap any in late 2014 have prompted scientists to say it is likely extinct. Also called the mosaic-tailed rat, the rodent is named after its home on Bramble Cay, a small island that is at most 10 feet (3 meters) above sea level.

Large colonies of these rats were first seen on the island in 1845. But since 1998, the part of the island that sits above high tide has shrunk from 4 hectares to 2.5 hectares, making the available vegetation on the island scarce. According to a team of scientists from the Queensland's Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, the key factor responsible for the extinction of this population is most certainly ocean inundation of the low-lying cay, very likely on multiple occasions, during the last decade, causing dramatic habitat loss and perhaps also direct mortality of individuals." For low-lying islands like Bramble Cay, the destructive effects of extreme water levels resulting from severe meteorological events are compounded by the impacts from anthropogenic climate change-driven sea-level rise, which is said to be one of the main causes of the extinction. Around the world, sea level has risen by almost 8 inches (20 centimeters) between 1901 and 2010, a rate unparalleled in the last 6,000 years. And around the Great Barrier Reef, sea level has risen at almost twice the global average rate between 1993 and 2014. This small mammal is therefore only the first of many species that face significant risk due to a warming climate, warn the scientists.

### *'Zombie corals' pose new threat to world's reefs*

Zombie corals, which look healthy but cannot reproduce, have been discovered by researchers, dashing hopes that such reefs could repopulate areas destroyed by bleaching. Scientists have also found that a common ingredient in sunscreen is killing and mutating corals in tourist spots. The new evidence of harm to corals comes as the most widespread coral bleaching event in recorded history that is sweeping the world's oceans. Water temperatures have been driven up by a run of record-breaking hot years, caused by climate change and the El Niño phenomenon. Very warm water causes corals to lose the algae that normally live inside them and help them feed.

According to reports corals in every major reef region have already experienced severe bleaching. About 93% of the reefs on Australia's Great Barrier Reef have been affected, and almost a quarter of the reef is now dead. Corals are hotspots of biodiversity and crucial nurseries for fish, upon which 1 billion people rely for nourishment. The new research, presented at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Hawaii, sampled 327 coral colonies across the Caribbean to assess the reproductive ability of apparently healthy elkhorn coral, which is a threatened species. Another study found that oxybenzone, a common UV-filtering compound in sunscreen, is common in Hawaii, Florida and the US Virgin Islands. The chemical kills coral but also causes DNA damage in adult coral and deforms the larval stage, making normal development unlikely. An earlier study showed that the highest concentrations of oxybenzone were found on the reefs most popular with tourists.

**Film4Climate Global Video Competition**

Following the success of past editions, Connect4Climate and +60 Partners launched the Film4Climate Global Video Competition on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

Young filmmakers are invited to showcase their talents and create either a Public Service Advertisement (< 1 min) or a Short Film (1 - 5 minutes) about climate action. The competition is open to filmmakers from all over the world, ages 14 to 35, and the deadline to submit the video on the Film4Climate portal is September 15, 2016. Submit to allow for public voting. The film should show a personal climate change narrative and emphasize what people around the world are doing to promote action, offer new solutions, and inspire change. The jury, chaired by acclaimed Italian film director Bernardo Bertolucci, will select the winning entries based on content, technical expertise and innovation, and originality.

First prize is \$8,000, second prize is \$5,000 and third is \$2,000. The winners will be announced during the Conference of Parties (COP22) in Marrakesh, Morocco in November.

The competition is open to filmmakers between 14 and 35 years old. Submissions are open from now until 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2016. For full competition rules and eligibility requirements, please visit: [film4climate.net](http://film4climate.net) or [connect4climate.org](http://connect4climate.org).

**One Root one Communi-Tree**

With the recent celebration of the World Day to Combat Desertification on 17<sup>th</sup> June, EEG has once again decided to facilitate the community in protecting the environment. While the general interest to contribute is prevalent, EEG provides significant platforms to involve organizations, institutions and individuals to actively engage in its tree planting initiatives.

Channelling its waste management programs to encourage growth of green urban spaces, EEG rolls out the One Root One Communi-Tree Project from July to November 2016. The project aims to bring together different segments of the society to contribute to recycling. Upon meeting the predefined targets, the contributors will get an opportunity to plant trees under their names in December, under the “For Our Emirates - We Plant” initiative. So make the most of this opportunity and enrol yourselves in this initiative to do your bit in protecting the environment.

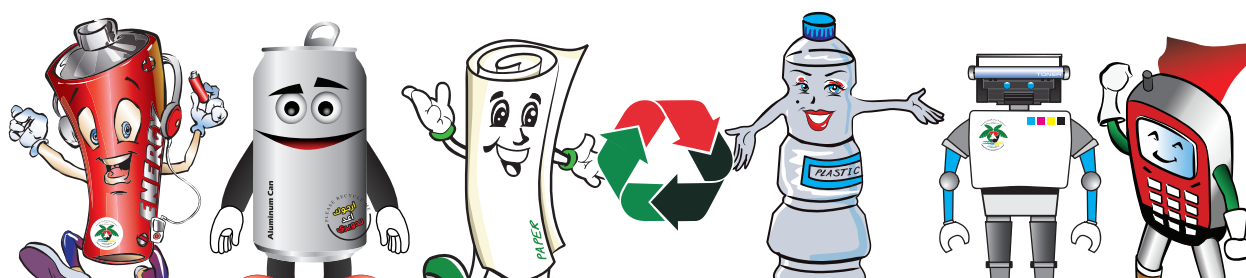


**EEG MEMBERS' UPDATE**  
 EEG warmly welcomed 2 renewed Corporate Members during the month of June 2016

CORPORATE MEMBERS	
China State Construction Engineering Corporation LLC	Renewal
JA Ocean View Hotel	Renewal

**NOT A MEMBER YET? SIGN UP TODAY..**  
 EEG welcomes new members as part of the family. To know more about EEG: Call (+971) 4 344 8622 or Fax us at (+971) 4 344 8677 Log on [www.eeg-uae.org](http://www.eeg-uae.org); or email us on [eeg@emirates.net.ae](mailto:eeg@emirates.net.ae)





<b>PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 78,605 kg of Paper from 333 participants during the month of June 2016, a decrease of 7% compared to May 2016. Let's put more efforts to prevent trees from being cut down. The Top Collectors were:	Petrofac - Sharjah	4,000	Akhil Puligadda	1,779
	Verger Delporte	3,300	Naima Ismail Zarooni Nasir Ismail Zarooni (TIE)	745
	Wasl - Ras Al Khor	1,650	Sanjay Nagarajan	740
<b>CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 4117 kg of Aluminum Cans from 61 participants during the month of June 2016, an increase of 100% compared to May 2016. The Top collectors were:	Coca Cola	950	Mahati Iyyappan	95
	Emirates Flight Catering	600	Neola J. Castelino	90
	Atlantis the Palm	426	Soumyo Shankar	78
<b>PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Companies	Quantity (kg)	Families	Quantity (kg)
EEG has collected 3,151 kg of Plastic from 125 participants during the month of June 2016. The collection does not include the collections done by Masafi. Thus, the top collectors are subject to change. The Top collectors for June were:	Ivory Grand Hotel Apartments	170	Ishal Shahir	77
	Sahara Tower	150	Aditya Nazar	65
	Delta Printing Press	100	Naima Ismail Zarooni Nasir Ismail Zarooni (TIE)	50
<b>TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Companies	Quantity (pc)	Families	Quantity (pc)
EEG has collected 868 pcs of Toners from 29 participants during the month of June 2016, an increase of 64% compared to May 2016. The Top collectors were:	Hamriya Freezone Authority	100	Soumyo Shankar	66
	Yassat Gloria Hotel Apartments	94	Noor Khalid Bin Hammad Rayan Khalid Bin Hammad (TIE)	50
	National Bank of Fujairah	74	Esmael Khaled	35
<b>BATTERY COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	Companies	Quantity (pc)	Families	Quantity (pc)
EEG has collected 289 kg of Batteries from 6 participant during the month of June 2016, an increase of 1827% compared to May 2016. The Top collectors were:	Mediclinic City Hospital	120	Thomas Shen	105
			Chirag Sawlani	23
<b>MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN</b>	EEG has collected 71 pcs of Mobile Phones from 4 participants during the month of June 2016, a decrease of 75% compared to May 2016. Noor Khalid Bin Hammad and Rayan Khalid Bin Hammad (TIE) collected 30 pieces each.			

EEG invites all of you to intensify efforts this 2016 to contribute significantly to the betterment of our environment!