



JUNE
2023
ISSUE 220

Society & Environment

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



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Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

Together for a green home

Chairman's Message

As the world unites to combat pressing environmental challenges and to beat plastic pollution on June 5 to mark World Environment Day this year, it is heartening to see the global community come together in a spirit of international collaboration and foster a collective drive towards a sustainable and thriving future.

With discussions focusing on 'plastic or the planet', countries and communities are seeking solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution. The world must unite because plastic pollution is a complex, global issue that impacts all land, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. It also threatens human health, impacts livelihood and is a catalyst for climate change.

The UAE's unwavering commitment to sustainability has seen it take remarkable strides to combat the issue and lead us towards a plastic-free future.

One of the most notable endeavors is the nationwide ban on single-use plastic. This forward-thinking policy is helping remove polluting plastics from the environment and eliminate the use of avoidable single-use plastic and non-plastic materials by fostering a recycling culture. The UAE's investments in advanced waste treatment facilities and its robust recycling infrastructure further ensures



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

that plastic waste is efficiently managed.

The adoption of a cohesive circular economy strategy has strengthened the UAE's solid reputation in the region as a climate anti-plastic pioneer.

As the first country in the region to pledge a net-zero target, the UAE's drive is being led by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. Through regional and international collaborations, the UAE is exchanging knowledge, expertise, and best practices to monitor plastic waste, reduce emissions, and develop innovative solutions such as bio-based alternatives and biodegradable plastics.

The UAE's environmental stewardship and leadership in the fight against plastic pollution demonstrates its steadfast commitment to safeguarding our planet for future generations. Each one of us bears responsibility in protecting and preserving our environment. Together, let's work towards a plastic-free future!

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PUBLISHED BY



Executive Director

Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad

Advisors

Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer
Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Marketing

marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

Editor

Sangeetha K
editor@zayedprize.org.ae
mail@zayedprize.org.ae

Design Director

Nash - Intoto Marketing
Communications
editor@zayedprize.org.ae

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Upcoming events

World Environment Day

Date: June 5

Hosted by Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the Netherlands

Under the theme, Solutions to plastic pollution, World Environment Day 2023 will focus on solutions to #BeatPlasticPollution. It is a reminder that people's actions on plastic pollution matters. The steps governments and businesses are taking to tackle plastic pollution are the consequence of this action.

The World Environment Day is the biggest international day for the environment. Held annually since 1973, it has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach. It is celebrated by millions of people across the world.

Launch of 'Earth Poetica' Exhibit

Date: June 5

Location: 3 World Trade Center, New York

'Earth Poetica', a site-specific art installation depicting planet Earth and composed of plastic waste, will be launched on World Environment Day at 3 World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan, New York. The exhibit is open to the public for six months.

Israeli artist Beverly Barkat's 'Earth Poetica' arrives in New York following an acclaimed display at Jerusalem's Israel Aquarium in 2022. Since its debut, 'Earth Poetica' has been received as a searing poetic dialogue on the growing incursion of plastic waste and the possibility for creative redress.

Bringing Sustainability to the campus

Date: June 12

Webinar

As part of the second Symposium on Teaching & Curriculum Development in Sustainability Entrepreneurship, this online event will hear from global academic practitioners on how to integrate sustainability into programme designs and inspire eco-entrepreneurs and new business model innovators of tomorrow. Speakers will address their experience and strategy for integrating sustainability; what has been effective and where challenges remain.

The online event explores ways to introduce sustainability into entrepreneurship, the key challenges and effective solutions, and discuss strategies to amplify effective integration of sustainability in (the private sector and) business schools.

Zayed International Foundation For The Environment Holds Discussions With The SEE Institute In Dubai To Advance Sustainability



The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment underlined its commitment to raising environmental awareness and facilitating knowledge creation and exchange on matters related to sustainability during a recent visit to the SEE Institute in Dubai, a leading hub for sustainability research, education, consulting, and business incubation.

The SEE Institute at the Sustainable City Dubai has been leading efforts in the region to enable organisations meet their net zero targets and sustainable development goals through tailored solutions catering to their specific needs.

Prof. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, was welcomed to the SEE Institute by Dr. Jasmina Locke, Chief Executive Officer. During his meeting with the CEO and senior

officials of the SEE Institute, Prof. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad, expressed keenness in exploring collaboration opportunities and supporting research that contributes significantly to the global discourse on sustainability and acceleration of climate action.

Discussions also focused on combining the expertise of both the organisations to join hands and to work together in preparation for the upcoming 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).

In the run up to the global climate summit from November 30 to December 12 at Expo City Dubai, Prof. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad noted that the two organisations could collaborate in preparation for COP28 agenda through participation in events, webinars and workshops.



Commending the SEE Institute for their innovative solutions that are enabling organisations attain energy and carbon neutrality, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment expressed interest in jointly publishing articles and papers relating to the latest advancements in the field of sustainability. A series of books published by the Zayed Foundation will also be gifted to the SEE Institute.

Salma Moustaid, Technical Executive Officer, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, participated in the discussions alongside other senior members of the SEE Institute including Mohammad Rasheed, Business Development Lead; Dr. Jacinta Dsilva, Director of Research; and Saniya Zarmukhambetova, Sustainability Data Manager.

The SEE Institute works with governments,

industry and academia to pave the way for bringing the UN 2050 targets forward and accelerate transition to a net-zero future. The SEE Institute building, registered under the ILFI Zero Carbon certification program, is a global benchmark for energy efficiency and the Institute aims to inspire and accelerate climate action and promote low carbon living through education, research projects, and global conferences.



UAE Cabinet Approves 78 New Environmental Projects In Preparation For COP28



At a meeting held at Qasr Al Watan, Abu Dhabi, the UAE Cabinet approved 78 environmental projects and initiatives in the country in preparation for the nation's hosting of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), to be held from November 30 to December 12, later this year. These include national strategies to reduce carbon and regulate the use of solar energy products, sustainable tourism and other initiatives that support sustainable and environment friendly development.

This was revealed in a statement on Twitter by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who chaired the UAE Cabinet meeting in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice

President, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court; H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance; and H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.

Last month more than 150 ministers and senior officials took part in a Green Retreat, setting out the UAE's crucial climate-change goals in the run-up to the COP28 summit in Dubai. The event brought together high-level representatives from federal and local governments, leading private-sector companies and prominent business leaders with the shared mission of enhancing plans to safeguard the planet.

The UAE has been a pioneer in the Gulf Cooperation Council in developing a national

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, chaired the UAE Cabinet meeting



climate strategy as early as 2017 and committing to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. ADNOC, the UAE's largest oil exporter, has also dedicated USD15 billion to decarbonization projects, including carbon capture, electrification, and CO2 absorption technology.

Sheikh Mohammed also said that the Cabinet reviewed the results and achievements of the Emirates Council for Food Security for the year 2022 which included the Agricultural Climate Innovation Initiative, in collaboration with the US, the establishment of a global agricultural innovation platform in co-operation with the World Economic Forum, the creation of the Dubai Food Technology Valley and other projects. Led by the UAE and the US, the Agricultural Climate Innovation Initiative aims at enhancing and accelerating investments in this field, and finding agricultural, climate and food safety solutions.

During the UAE Cabinet meeting, a new online platform was also established to help Emiratis who are building a home.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said the Cabinet had launched "DARAK", an integrated e-platform that provides a comprehensive system covering each stage of a house's construction. Meaning "home" in Arabic, "DARAK" will provide citizens with construction solutions, banking facilities and exclusive offers for each stage of the building process.

"The goal is to enable citizens to benefit from the same commercial facilities that government entities receive during construction, with the aim of reducing costs and improving quality," Sheikh Mohammed said on Twitter.

Sheikh Mohammed said the Cabinet also



approved the restructuring of the Emirates Investment Authority (EIA) board of directors, with Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, as chairman.

"The authority manages the investments and development of the assets of the Federal Government and aims to raise the income of the Emirates' budget through these investments," Sheikh Mohammed said.

Service exports

The Cabinet also approved the Council of Ministers' agenda for developing service exports, which aims to raise the production as well as increase the competitiveness of Emirati exports in international markets.

The agenda is set to contribute in strengthening

the UAE's position as a global service provider and enhancing its ranking within the best countries in gross national income per capita. It will focus on education, medical tourism, conventional and Islamic financial services, and the creative economy.

"The Ministry of Economy will work to build international partnerships and develop programmes to support the international exports of UAE companies in these sectors," Sheikh Mohammed said.

"We also reviewed the country's foreign trade report in 2022, where our non-oil foreign trade exceeded for the first time the Dh2.2 trillion barrier for the first time."

New educational model

The Cabinet approved the new educational model

Projects announced include national strategies for carbon reduction and solar regulation



for the Higher Colleges of Technology, which will come into effect at the beginning of the academic year 2023/2024. The New model aims at enhancing the contribution of Higher Colleges of Technology to leading an effective role within the workforce development system in the country.

The Cabinet has adopted the Executive Regulation of Federal Law on Consumer Protection, aiming to protect all consumer rights, especially those pertaining to the quality of goods and services.

The Cabinet has approved the Executive Regulation of the Federal Decree-Law regulating the Advocacy and Legal Consultancy Professions, translation and notary public. The meeting approved a new federal law regulating the Transfer and Transplant of Human Organs, in addition, to a number of decisions to expand the scope of companies and private sector

organizations subject to Emiratization targets within NAFIS initiatives and programmes.

The meeting reviewed a series of reports and achievements for the year 2022, in addition to approving a number of international agreements with friendly countries, including the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica.



UAE Calls For Urgent Global Action On Food Security At UN Meeting

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, has called for urgent global action to tackle food insecurity and climate change at Security Council sessions at the United Nations headquarters in New York, USA. The minister also discussed key related topics with Alain Berset, the President of Switzerland and current President of the UN Security Council.



Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, was speaking at the UN Security Council sessions in New York

At the UN Security Council Meeting titled 'Ensuring the security and dignity of civilians in conflict: addressing food insecurity and protecting essential services', Almheiri emphasised the rapidly escalating impact of climate change on food security, the need for increased international humanitarian law compliance, and the role of climate change as a 'threat multiplier'. In 2022, over a quarter of a billion people faced acute hunger in 58 countries, many amidst armed conflict.

Addressing the UN Security Council, Almheiri said: "A significant reason that civilians continue to suffer from conflict-induced food insecurity is the gap in implementing clearly defined rules. Our collective recommitment to upholding international humanitarian law is essential."

She added: "At the upcoming COP28 in the UAE,

Food and water systems will feature high on the COP28 agenda with plans to adopt a robust and solutions-led approach to climate action



we plan to adopt a robust and solutions-led approach to climate action. Food and water systems will feature high on the agenda, reflecting their central role in the ability of conflict-affected and fragile states to recover from disasters."

At the 'Group of Friends for Food Security and Nutrition' briefing session at the UN, HE Almheiri set out the UAE's strategic vision for food systems and security. Her address underscored the importance of aligning the food and climate agendas. She also highlighted the efforts of the UAE in confronting domestic food security challenges, focusing on sustainable, technology-driven food supplies, and diversifying international food sources.

Given the UAE's geographical position, with limited water and arable-land resources, HE Almheiri outlined the steps the UAE is taking to

meet its domestic food security challenges head-on. She also stressed the nation's focus on sustainable, technology-enabled food supplies, diversifying international food sources, facilitating more robust global agri-business trade, reducing food waste, improving nutritional intake, and enhancing capacity to respond to food security crises.

Almheiri said: "Agtech solutions are central to our strategy for greater domestic food security. Innovations like vertical farming, hydroponics, and AI-driven irrigation systems are key to creating a more sustainable, efficient, and resilient food production system in the UAE."

She also encouraged states and non-state actors alike to make concrete commitments towards systemic change.

'Road To COP28' Galvanises Stakeholders

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, has commended the UAE for adopting policies and initiatives that support and foster climate action, considering them a strategic priority in driving sustainable socio-economic development.

In an address at the “Road to COP28: Driving Collective Action in the UAE” event, hosted by



“Road to COP28: Driving Collective Action in the UAE” event was hosted by Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, in collaboration with Dubai Chamber

Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, in collaboration with Dubai Chamber, the Minister highlighted that 22 policies that are being implemented under the UAE Circular Economy Policy 2031 focuses on four major sectors: sustainable transport, manufacturing, food, and green infrastructure. These will enhance national economy’s growth and competitiveness in accordance with the objectives of the Principles of the 50, he added

The Road to COP28 event, which aimed at exploring climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience and finance, brought together key segments of the society to mobilise efforts for inclusive climate progress ahead of the UAE-hosted climate summit.

Al Marri further stated, “The upcoming COP28 will serve as a global platform that supports

The Road to COP28 event brought together key segments of the society to mobilise efforts for inclusive climate progress



collective action to tackle climate change, reduce carbon footprint, achieve sustainable and comprehensive development, and create a better future for current and future generations.

The event will also play a key role in promoting the UAE's attractiveness for local and international investments in new economy sectors, particularly advanced technology, infrastructure, clean energy, and climate change."

At the opening session, Razan Al Mubarak emphasised, "Facing an increasingly precarious future due to climate change and nature loss, it is the role of the High-Level Champions to underscore, on a global level, that comprehensive climate action is an all-of-society mandate. As hosts of COP28, the UAE has a unique opportunity to unite our community in pursuing a net-zero, climate-resilient, and nature-positive future."

Al Mubarak introduced the "Race to Zero" and the "Race to Resilience" global campaigns and showcased the 2030 solution pathways and available projects as part of the COP27 Presidency backed Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda. The "Road to COP28" event served as a platform for local businesses to understand how they can lead by example, particularly by committing finance, expertise, and resources to mitigation and adaptation projects.

The High-Level Champions highlighted the importance of climate action including in hard-to-abate sectors such as the built environment and are working closely with regional leaders to drive ambitious climate action, particularly in areas where it is needed most, and where adaptation to the impacts of climate change are becoming more prevalent.

UAE Climate Tech Forum Calls For Pushing Entrepreneurship In Green Tech

The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) hosted three sessions at the UAE Climate Tech forum to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of green technology and climate action.

The three sessions focused on the UAE's investment, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem, a key pillar of



Organized by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), the event brought together the relevant ecosystem players to accelerate game-changing climate tech solutions

COP28, to be held at Expo City Dubai.

Sarah Al Amiri, Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology, said: "Promoting entrepreneurship, research and innovation in the industrial sector, especially in climate technology, is among the ministry's key priorities in driving climate action. The UAE Climate Tech forum brings together the relevant ecosystem players to accelerate game-changing climate tech solutions."

MoIAT called on entrepreneurs, innovators and technology startups to participate in COP28 and to explore investment opportunities the UAE offers in financing climate action. COP28 will also showcase the UAE's industrial sustainability best practices, as well as efforts to encourage the adoption of emerging green technologies. During the sessions, the ministry shed light on

The roundtables highlighted the UAE's ecosystem in enabling climate technology startups, through incubating program, financing, pilots and partnerships



entrepreneurial success stories within the green technology field and highlighted incentives and enablers that promote the growth of technology companies, as well as support for entrepreneurs and investors.

The first session, hosted in partnership with the COP28 team, explored the conference's Technology and Entrepreneurship Program, and its role in promoting innovation and technology globally for a climate-neutral world. The session also provided an overview of partnership prospects at COP28, touching upon priorities for a more successful energy transition and technological progress to decarbonize at-scale, delivering climate action across the value chain.

The ministry hosted two roundtables titled 'Climate Technology Exchange,' which included the participation of representatives from climate

technology startups, in addition to representatives from the Emirates Development Bank, ADNOC, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, the STARTAD program, Catalyst, Strata, TAQA, IBM, Abu Dhabi Investment Office, Masdar, Bourouge and AIQ artificial intelligence.

The roundtables highlighted the UAE's ecosystem in enabling climate technology startups, through incubating program, financing, pilots and partnerships. The session also discussed the role of the government and private sector in promoting the adoption of climate technologies in line with the UAE's sustainability targets.

A third roundtable, led by MoIAT in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), demonstrated the impact of the industrial sector in providing innovative technological solutions to promote the energy transition and decarbonization. The session was attended by representatives from MoIAT, UNIDO, Siemens, and Schneider Electric.

The UNIDO session also touched upon decarbonizing heavy and hard-to-abate industries such as cement, iron and petrochemicals. It also discussed the pivotal role of advanced technologies, financing, and policies in growing demand for low-carbon energies and boosting strategic partnerships across markets.



UAE Launches Sustainable Beekeeping And Honey Production Initiative

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) has launched an ambitious programme to develop and sustain beekeeping and honey production in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The programme is based on scientific and applied studies and research to develop the best methods and practices suitable for the UAE.



Under the ambitious programme, the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority begins eighth-generation queen production for Emirati bee breed

In celebration of World Bee Day on 20th May, ADAFSA has announced the commencement of the eighth-generation queen production for the Emirati bee breed. Developed as part of the ongoing project to enhance beekeeping and honey production, this initiative aligns with the theme of this year's World Bee Day, 'Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production'.

Saeed Ali Al Yamahi, ADAFSA's Research and Development Division Director, emphasised the significance of developing the Emirati bee breed as a key factor in ensuring the sustainability of beekeeping in the UAE. This entails focusing on the breeding and production of queen bees capable of adapting to the country's unique environment and climate.

He further highlighted the remarkable accomplishments of ADAFSA in this domain. The

ADAFSA distributes more than 2,700 queens to 90 Emirati beekeepers



Authority has successfully developed an Emirati bee breed that exhibits distinctive traits, including smaller-sized female worker bees that display exceptional diligence in nectar collection. With each successive breeding generation, their honey production efficiency has improved significantly. The queens have shown exceptional activity in egg-laying and have consistently produced high-quality brood patterns.

Moreover, they have demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt to the local environmental conditions. Through continuous efforts, ADAFSA has successfully raised and produced queens, leading to the production of the eighth-generation bee breed.

Al Yamahi provided an update on the progress made in 2022, stating that over 3,079 queens were produced during that year. Furthermore,

ADAFSA distributed more than 2,700 queens to 90 Emirati beekeepers. This initiative aimed to provide support to beekeepers and boost honey production while encouraging more breeders to actively contribute to the development and sustainability of this crucial sector.

Al Yamahi also highlighted the significance of beekeeping and honey production as an integral component of sustainable agricultural development, and its crucial role in supporting the food security system. Honey, being a highly nutritious food product, holds substantial value.

Additionally, beekeeping has significant environmental importance in maintaining ecosystem balance. Bees contribute to the vital pollination process necessary for plant and tree propagation. Pollination not only preserves biodiversity but also supports ecosystems that



agriculture relies on. Bees and other pollinators play a vital role in ensuring the transfer of pollen, enabling the reproduction of numerous cultivated and wild plant species.

Al Yamahi highlighted that ADAFSA relies on state-of-the-art scientific laboratories and advanced techniques for the diagnosis of honeybee diseases and pests. This essential research and development work is conducted at Al Kuwaitat Research Station in Al Ain. The laboratory is equipped with cutting-edge technologies to accurately detect bee pathogens.

Additionally, it plays a pivotal role in training and qualifying Emirati experts to diagnose diseases and pests, aiding beekeepers in identifying issues within their apiaries. The laboratory also offers recommendations and technical guidance to effectively combat these diseases and pests. The

project's success has demonstrated that bee populations in the country can thrive year-round and adapt to the challenging summer heat conditions.

The Authority is dedicated to developing comprehensive extension programmes and plans that facilitate the dissemination of knowledge to beekeepers in all regions of Abu Dhabi. To achieve this, the Honey Beekeeping Unit provides extension services to beekeepers. The Unit focuses on equipping them with the latest methods and principles of beekeeping, including the grafting of larvae for queen breeding, effective strategies for controlling and diagnosing bee diseases and pests, techniques for improving production quality, and capacity building opportunities for Emirati experts in the field of artificial insemination of queen bees.

du Outlines Its 2030 Net-Zero Ambition

The Emirates Integrated Telecommunication Company (EITC), commercially rebranded as du, has committed to achieving net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions within its operations in the UAE by 2030 and Scope 3 by 2050.

The company will be focusing on key initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint, including improving energy efficiency and sourcing



renewable energy. The du climate action programme will establish a clear net zero carbon emissions road map for the company to advance its sustainability initiatives that have a positive human impact on future plans and operations.

du's Sustainability Report 2022 provides information on du's efforts to support three key sustainability objectives – to "make people and society happier", "operate ethically and responsibly" and "deliver the benefits of our services to all". These objectives are further split into various priority focus areas, corresponding to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

One of the initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions involves replacing diesel-powered generators with hybrid- and solar-power alternatives.

At present, there are 200 sites equipped with smart hybrid power systems which run on the latest Lithium-Ion battery technology leading to 50 percent reduction of diesel consumption and carbon emissions.

Furthermore, du increased the number of solar-powered sites by 18 and it now has 78 sites which have zero carbon emissions. du has introduced a new concept by installing solar panels on mobile towers to allow excess energy to be fed back into the power grid - accelerating the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a shift towards a cleaner, greener planet.

There are 10 of these systems in operation with 80 more towers set to be completed by the end of 2023 to take further steps towards mitigating climate change.

Tadweer Rolls Out Middle East's First 100% Electric Garbage Collection Trucks

The Abu Dhabi Waste Management PJSC (Tadweer), in collaboration with Renault Trucks Middle East and Al Masood, has launched the first 100 percent electric waste truck in the United Arab Emirates, which is also the first fully electric heavy truck ever launched in the Middle East.

Launched in support of the UAE's net-zero



The first 100 percent electric waste truck in the UAE supports Tadweer in achieving its mission through building an integrated waste management system and achieving a circular economy

ambitions and sustainability agendas, the first Renault 100 percent electric truck will be used by Tadweer, a pioneer in waste management, to collect household waste in the emirate. The truck was manufactured by Renault Trucks, under the dealership of Al Masood, following the signing of an agreement between Tadweer and Al Masood during the recent EcoWaste Exhibition and Conference.

Being the first heavy truck operating in the region, the Renault Trucks E-tech truck will also run a pilot programme to gauge the vehicle's performance in high temperatures, in addition to addressing logistical challenges such as charging station availability along key routes.

Ali Al Dhaheri, MD and CEO at Tadweer, said, "Tadweer incorporates state-of-the-art and modern technologies to ensure successful

The zero-emission, almost silent trash compactor vehicles can travel 200kms on single charge



operation, while supporting Abu Dhabi's Environment Vision 2030 and the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 ambitions. We therefore look forward to our ongoing collaboration with Al Masood and Renault Trucks and are excited to see what this E-Tech Waste management truck has to offer in terms of performance and efficiency."

The Renault Trucks D-Wide E-tech has already demonstrated its effectiveness and performance in Europe, with urban centres like Paris and Barcelona adopting nearly 100 of the trucks each to fulfil their commitments to sustainability and their communities. By using these electric trucks, these two cities have removed more than 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the environment each year, equivalent to removing 1,000 cars from the roads annually. With a range of up to 200 kilometres between charges, the trucks have already proven their worthiness from a zero-

emissions and performance perspective. Tadweer is keen to start operating the electric truck on Abu Dhabi's roads to assess and monitor the vehicle's performance in summer temperatures.

The first 100 percent electric waste truck supports Tadweer in achieving its mission through building an integrated waste management system and achieving a circular economy.

The Renault Trucks D Wide 26t E-Tech Electric is the ideal vehicle for urban waste collection with low operating costs while maintaining optimal range and payload. Equipped with a 23 cubic metre capacity Gorica-Farid electric garbage compactor, the Renault Trucks E-Tech D Wide P6x2 will be operating in Abu Dhabi to collect household waste, almost silently with zero tailpipe emissions.

UAE Explores Climate-Change Response At Venice Architecture Biennale

Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi, Minister of Culture and Youth, has inaugurated the UAE's 12th exhibition titled 'Aridly Abundant' at the UAE Pavilion in the La Biennale Di Venezia International Art and Architecture Exhibitions in Venice. The exhibition will be on view until November 26.

Curated by Faysal Tabbarah, Associate Dean and



'Aridly Abundant' exhibition at the UAE Pavilion challenges preconceptions around the arid desert land common in the Arabian Peninsula

Associate Professor of Architecture at the College of Architecture, Art and Design at American University of Sharjah, 'Aridly Abundant' investigates the architectural possibilities that arise when we reimagine arid landscapes as spaces of abundance. This is explored through the integration of land-based knowledge and contemporary technology within the arid landscapes of the UAE, with a specific focus on the desert plateau, wadis, and coastal plains in and around Al Hajar Mountains.

Addressing misconception of arid spaces

The 2023 exhibition addresses the misconception that arid spaces are spaces of scarcity to highlight the thriving ecosystems that have always been present in the UAE and its surrounding areas, supported by land-based practices developed by inhabitants who understood and cherished the particularities of

The theme of this year's Venice Architecture Biennale is "Laboratory of the Future"



the land. 'Aridly Abundant' transforms the pavilion into an environment that exhibits the ongoing spatial, material, and tactile qualities of aridly abundant landscapes. A series of stone assemblies are inserted into the space to exhibit the multitude of tactics of assembly that have been identified in Al Hajar such as dry-stacking, tethering, and blurring. Audio/visual vignettes by commissioned artist Reem Falaknaz allow one to experience the environment of Al Hajar.

Changing perspective

Faysal Tabbarah, curator of the National Pavilion UAE's 2023 exhibition, commented, "Through 'Aridly Abundant', our aim is to change perspectives of arid landscapes as devoid of value, and reimagine them as an abundant source of knowledge and resources, by investigating an alternative and contemporary building system rooted in the UAE's cultural and material environment.

"Our research integrates land-based practices with contemporary technology such as 3D scanning and 3D printing to present the potential of stone construction as an adaptable and sustainable form of architecture for countries affected by climate change to explore and adapt to their own environments."

Cultural evolution

Laila Binbrek, Director of the National Pavilion UAE, said, "Adapting to climate change is a growing source of concern globally and Faysal's research not only allows us to provide a locally informed perspective but also possible solutions or provocations or a call to action to this problem as aridity becomes a new reality for many."

In the 2023 exhibition's accompanying publication, "In Plain Sight: Scenes from Aridly Abundant Landscapes", the contributors challenge the historical narrative by introducing nuance and concepts of abundance to construct multiple lenses to view, sense, and capture the multitudes contained within aridity.



UAE Space Agency Partners With Planet Labs For Climate Resilience

In efforts towards bolstering resilience against the impacts of climate change, the UAE Space Agency has forged a collaboration with Planet Labs, a pioneer in Earth data and insights.

This partnership aims to construct an innovative loss and damage atlas, driven by satellite data, that will empower nations to confront the challenges posed by a changing climate.

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PARTNERSHIP



Collaboration to build a satellite data-driven atlas of regional climate loss and damage aims to provide countries with data to help build climate resilience through policy decisions and financial programs.

This agreement aligns with the UAESA's vision to actively support transformative initiatives and projects aimed at combating climate change.

The establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund was the highlight of the COP27 and the culmination of decades of pressure from climate-vulnerable developing countries. The fund aims to provide financial assistance to nations most vulnerable and impacted by the effects of climate change.

The Loss and Damage Atlas project was conceived to extend technology and expertise to developing countries to tackle the loss and damage resulting from climate change. Additionally, the atlas's objectives align with the World Meteorological Organization's Early Warning Systems for All initiative, aiming to enhance the availability and accessibility of

By quantifying the damages inflicted by extreme weather events, the Loss and Damage Atlas will facilitate the establishment of early-warning systems, enabling proactive responses to mitigate potential impacts



early warning systems for hazards such as extreme weather, water, and climate-related events in climate-vulnerable countries.

"Our strategic collaboration and partnership with Planet Labs represent a robust step towards building a sustainable and climate-resilient future. Moreover, it reflects our commitment to strengthening our analytical capabilities to combat climate change and make better-informed decisions," said Sarah Al Amiri, UAE Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency.

She added: "We understand the importance of tackling global climate challenges. Thus, we will use cutting-edge technology, space data, and satellites to map the loss and damage from climate change and help establish early-warning

systems. The project also supports our plans to build capacities and adapt to the accelerating climate changes, as well as helping other countries to develop plans and strategies to limit future climate changes."

Salem Butti Salem Al Qubaisi, the Director General of the UAE Space Agency, emphasised the agency's commitment to fostering and empowering national private sector companies in their efforts to bolster sustainability and combat climate change.

He said, "This agreement marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals. The implementation of this pioneering atlas holds immense potential to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change."

In addition to its primary objectives, the Loss and Damage Atlas will play a pivotal role in quantifying



the damages inflicted by extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts. By doing so, it will facilitate the establishment of early-warning systems, enabling proactive responses to mitigate potential impacts.

Moreover, the atlas will provide valuable insights on various climate-related topics, including population distribution, wildfire and flood risks, agricultural productivity, food security, and the assessment of physical assets. This will contribute to a better understanding of the complex dynamics of climate change, facilitating the development of effective strategies and measures to address its consequences.

The Loss and Damage Atlas will be developed by UAE-based start-up companies, institutes and universities, and the first demonstration will take place during COP28.

Will Marshall, Planet Labs Co-founder and CEO, said, "Climate change is a global challenge and it's critical for vulnerable countries to have real, tangible insights to build resilience. We have the technology to capture those insights and to help build early warning systems for climate risks."

Under the agreement, Planet Labs is set to provide key data assets and capabilities for the Loss and Damage Atlas. This includes access to PlanetScope satellite data for each participating country, to leverage a near-daily country-level imagery scan at 3 metre resolution, and see gradual change happening, such as coastal erosion. The SkySat Tasking capabilities will enable countries to identify specific areas of interest and capture fine details, at 50 centimetre resolution, of swiftly changing events, such as the immediate impacts of flooding damage.

New Partnership To Support Development Of Agri-Tech Innovations In UAE

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) has signed a cooperation agreement with Hub71, Abu Dhabi's global tech ecosystem to accelerate the development and adoption of ground-breaking technologies in agriculture, food safety, food security and biosecurity.

The partnership will bring together stakeholders

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operating in the AgriTech industry to work in a collaborative environment to empower and support startups in the field of agricultural technology to innovate in the sector.

The agreement was signed by Dr Mariam Harib AlSuwaidi, Deputy Director-General of the operational affairs at ADAFSA; and Ahmad Ali Alwan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Hub71.

Under the agreement, ADAFSA and Hub71 will work to address the challenges faced by the AgriTech sector by connecting businesses with startups offering technology-based solutions. Startups will also have the opportunity to engage with experts through a mentorship programme.

The two entities will also collaborate to build a strong network of AgriTech stakeholders across business, academia, and government to promote partnerships and support startup innovations.

The UAE leads the MENA region in the Global Food Security Index for 2022, ranking 23rd in the GFSI overall rank, and 31st in food affordability, 7th in food availability, 16th in food safety and quality, and 53rd in sustainability and adaptation sub-indicators. The National Food Security Strategy aims to develop a comprehensive national system to enable sustainable food production and achieve the leading position in the global food security index by 2051.

The partnership will consolidate the Emirate's position as a global destination for agricultural technologies in desert environments and innovations to address the challenges of soil, water, and climate change. The agreement is a strategic step to support innovation along the value chain from producer to consumer and to promote sustainable food security.

Cement and Concrete Decarbonization Workshop Hosted In UAE

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment recently hosted a Cement and Concrete Decarbonisation Workshop to address the critical contributors to the UAE's carbon footprint, which account for 10% of the country's total CO2 emissions.

The workshop was organised as part of the UAE's Year of Sustainability 2023 and in



One-day workshop hosted by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment addressed the building industry's contribution to the UAE's carbon footprint, which account for 10% of the country's total CO2 emissions

preparation for the upcoming COP28 conference, with the aim of creating a comprehensive model for carbon removal across various sectors. Over 100 experts from across the supply chain, including developers, consultants, cement and concrete producers, project buyers, and government officials, participated in the one-day event.

Essa Al Hashmi, Assistant Under-Secretary for Sustainable Communities and Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for Green Development and Climate Change at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, emphasised the critical importance of reducing carbon emissions to enable the UAE to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Al Hashmi said, "This year, as the UAE hosts the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28), we must

The construction industry is responsible for about 19 percent of the overall greenhouse gas emissions globally



ensure that the UAE is at the forefront of decarbonisation efforts across all sectors. Through this workshop and other efforts, we seek to build an integrated mechanism that brings together all stakeholders to work on carbon removal from various vital sectors, in order to have a tangible impact on the sustainability of those sectors in the future and not to cause further climate and environmental effects."

Achieving net-zero emissions will require significant efforts from all sectors, including the construction and real estate industries. The event highlighted the importance of adopting low-carbon technologies and processes, as well as investing in research and development to create innovative solutions that can reduce the carbon footprint of the cement and concrete sector.

In her opening speech, Muna Alamoodi, Director

of Climate Change Department at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment commended all stakeholders in the supply chain, from cement producers, concrete manufacturers, designers, developers, and the government, for their efforts to mitigate embodied emissions.

She urged the private sector to explore options, including low-carbon cement, process optimisation, fuel diversification, and generating new demand for green products.

Later in the day, participants from related industries were divided into groups for breakout sessions to discuss and identify practical solutions for decarbonising embodied CO₂ in buildings and infrastructures. Participants then suggested a cement and concrete decarbonisation roadmap for COP28.

SeaWorld Abu Dhabi Pushes Limits Of Science And Conservation

SeaWorld Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, the region's first Marine Life Theme Park, has officially opened its doors to the public, offering exciting experiences and immersive adventures for guests of all ages.

The newest addition to Yas Island's collection of theme parks, was developed by Miral in partnership with SeaWorld Parks &



SeaWorld Abu Dhabi, the region's first marine life theme park with a strong focus on zoological conservation, has officially opened to the public on Yas Island

Entertainment, a renowned educational theme park and entertainment company with a strong focus on zoological conservation.

During the event Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of Miral, alongside Scott Ross, Chairman of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, and Mohamed Abdalla Al Zaabi, Group CEO of Miral, welcomed Dr. Mugheer Khamis Al Khaili, Chairman of the Department of Community Development, in addition to other government officials, as well as ambassadors and chargé d'affaires to the UAE from the USA, Japan, Singapore and Belgium among other countries.

Al Mubarak said, "SeaWorld Abu Dhabi represents the next generation of theme parks and contributes to the growth of Abu Dhabi's tourism vision. The Park will also play a key role in promoting environmental awareness and

The park plays a key role in promoting environmental awareness and protecting marine life in Abu Dhabi, the UAE and the wider region



protecting marine life in Abu Dhabi, the UAE and the wider region, undoubtedly inspiring guests to care for and protect our precious marine life for years to come. Together, with our partner, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, we are proud to be pushing the limits of science and conservation to create a truly unparalleled knowledge hub, demonstrating our joint commitment to upholding the highest standards of animal care and welfare.”

Spanning five indoor levels over 183,000 sqm, the park tells a captivating One Ocean story, taking guests on a journey of discovery seamlessly blending learning and fun across eight immersive realms. Guests of all ages can enjoy unique family-friendly experiences including up-close animal encounters and animal presentations.

Scott Ross, Chairman of SeaWorld Parks &

Entertainment, stated, “The extraordinary SeaWorld Abu Dhabi Marine Life Theme Park was born through years of collaboration and innovation, combining SeaWorld’s nearly 60 years of experience in animal welfare and commitment to marine conservation with Miral’s track record as a leading developer of world-class destinations. We are sincerely proud to play our part in inspiring their commitment to marine conservation for years to come.”

Each realm at SeaWorld Abu Dhabi is uniquely themed and intricately designed, transporting guests to different marine environments found across the globe. The One Ocean realm acts as the core of the park sharing the One Ocean story through highly immersive media. The realm is also home to the Animal Care Centre and houses the portals to the rest of the park, while the Abu Dhabi Ocean realm invites guests to discover the



unique marine life of the Arabian Gulf. At Rocky Point, guests will see sea lions and harbor seals in a hidden cove inspired by the USA's Pacific Northwest.

The Tropical Ocean realm features a vibrant and sunny rainforest and a stunning blue lagoon with dolphins, flamingos, fish and birds. In MicroOcean realm children and families are in for big fun as they explore the microscopic world as plankton and learn that being small can have a big impact. In Endless Ocean realm guests will marvel at the world's largest multi-species marine life aquarium, featuring over 68,000 marine animals and an astounding 25 million litres of water. In the Arctic and Antarctica realms of Polar Ocean, guests will enjoy icy seascapes and learn about the unique habits of polar species.

SeaWorld Abu Dhabi offers 10 up-close animal

encounters amongst 100 animal experiences and presentations, where guests can learn about the unique characteristics and behaviors of fascinating marine animals including dolphins, sharks, and sea turtles.

The park is also home to over 15 interactive rides and experiences, each taking guests on a unique journey of discovery beneath the waves. Thrill-seekers can enjoy rides like the Manta Coaster at Tropical Ocean or hop into the Hypersphere 360° in Polar Ocean's Arctic Realm.

SeaWorld Abu Dhabi has recently announced its certification by Global Humane, the international brand of American Humane and the world's largest certifier of animal welfare. It is the first facility in the MENA region to achieve this certification.

1,000 Avicennia Trees Planted In Al Mirfa City In Abu Dhabi

As part of its ongoing campaign to plant 3,000 avicennia trees in a number of regions of Abu Dhabi, the Zayed Higher Organisation for People of Determination (ZHO) recently collaborated with the Environment Friends Society (EFS) to plant 1,000 trees on the beach of Al Mirfa City in Al Dhafra area.

The activities, organised under the framework



of the Year of Sustainability, saw the participation of 50 students of determination, affiliates of ZHO, Al Dhafra Municipality, and a number of entities.

The campaign was attended by Nafie Ali Al Hammadi, Executive Director of ZHO Support Services Sector, and Dr. Ibrahim Ali Mohammed, Chairman of EFS Board of Directors.

Al Hammadi stressed the importance of educating ZHO's affiliates of determination and cadres on the importance of environment protection which is a top priority in the UAE.

Dr. Ibrahim Ali Mohammed, Chairman of EFS Board of Directors, said, "The initiative is in line with the national goal announced by the UAE to plant one million avicennia trees by 2030. This national commitment is part of the UAE's endeavor to capitalize on natural solutions to

combat climate change, especially in light of the main role of avicennia trees in absorbing carbon and protecting the state's coasts from rise in sea levels".

It is worth noting that the avicennia forests, which cover tens of kilometers of land along the coastline of the UAE, are part and parcel of the coastal ecosystems in the UAE and represent rich and safe natural habitats for the breeding of several types of fish.

The avicennia trees are an environmental treasure, as they enjoy a tremendous economic and biological importance for containing a plenty of marine organisms, and serve as the only natural incubator for shrimp. Meanwhile, they protect the beaches from erosion and are used as a shelter for nesting birds.

AUS-SNOC Discusses Global Climate Change, Net Zero Commitments

As the world rises to combat climate change and the UAE prepares to host the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) towards the end of this year, the Department of Chemical Engineering at American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted a talk by the Sharjah National Oil Corporation (SNOC) on understanding global climate change and net zero commitments.



The discussions enriched understanding of the meaning of climate change, its effects, human impact and climate remedial action with a focus on the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative

Held as part of the SNOC's Carbon Literacy Project that aims to promote education and increase awareness about the importance of net zero goals and environment protection for a sustainable future, the event focused on understanding the meaning of climate change, its effects, human impact and climate remedial action with a focus on the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative.

Dr. Rana Sabouni, Associate Professor in Chemical and Biological Engineering at AUS, speaker and event organiser, said, "This event is aimed at opening channels of collaboration with industry to explore key technological solutions for reduced carbon emission operations and is part of AUS's efforts to spread awareness across the community on actions that can be taken to change lifestyles for a better sustainable future for our planet. All of this, of

AUS will take part in discussions and exhibitions and host a number of events and initiatives at COP28 this year



course, supports the UAE's goal of achieving net zero by 2050."

The event featured presentations by SNOC subject experts, including Khamis Al Mazrouie, Executive Director of Operations, who spoke about the UAE strategies, COP28 and action plan towards achieving net zero commitments; Rawad Barzanji, Process and Process Safety Team Leader, discussed SNOC's action plan toward achieving its set net zero target by 2032.

It also featured presentations by Feras Beshar, Process Engineer, who spoke about the global agenda and drive for reducing emission by 45 percent to maintain the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal in 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. Obiajulu Ani Tawose, Health, Safety and Environment Lead, responsible for managing SNOC's Net Zero Campaign, gave an overall introduction about

climate change, the impact of human activities on it, effects of climate change and the society circular economy approach towards achieving net zero commitments.

A panel discussion followed, touching on the role of the oil and gas industry in achieving net zero operations, the social and economic impact on net-zero commitments and the role of society in building a circular economy that manages production and consumption to tackle climate change.

The discussion also covered how those in the industrial sectors, like SNOC, are working to meet their net-zero commitments and changing individual lifestyles, as well as how universities and academia, supporting industries, can contribute to meeting net-zero targets.

400 Volunteers To Preserve Nature, Biodiversity In UAE

Emirates Foundation has announced a significant partnership with Emirates Nature-WWF, a non-profit organisation dedicated to preserving the natural heritage of the UAE. Together, they will embark on a series of environmental volunteering initiatives aimed at empowering civil society and youth to make a lasting impact and foster a world where both people and nature can thrive.

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PARTNERSHIP



Emirates Foundation has announced partnership with Emirates Nature-WWF to engage residents in conservation and citizen science activities as part of the Leaders of Change programme

These initiatives, in collaboration with Emirates Foundation's Takatof Programme, which offers meaningful volunteering opportunities to UAE citizens and residents, will be carried out until November 2023.

Approximately 400 Takatof volunteers will engage in conservation and citizen science activities as part of Emirates Nature-WWF's broader Leaders of Change programme. This endeavour will expand their understanding of the UAE's diverse biodiversity and cultivate a genuine passion for the natural world.

Importantly, each activity will contribute to national conservation efforts and address climate change, aligning with the Year of Sustainability and the upcoming UN climate change conference, COP28, scheduled to take place in Dubai later this year.

The series of initiatives, which will run until November, seeks to empower the youth to maximise their impact and build a world where people and nature thrive



Leaders of Change, the UAE's pioneering civil mobilisation movement, inspires volunteers to effect tangible change through training, ideation sessions, and engaging volunteer excursions.

By involving volunteers in nature-oriented initiatives and offering opportunities to explore wild spaces and encounter wildlife, the program aims to transform mindsets, empower individuals to create and implement solutions that positively impacts both people and the planet.

Ahmed Taleb Al Shamsi, Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Foundation, commented on the partnership and volunteering initiatives, stating, "Protecting the UAE's precious environment has never been more critical for individuals and the community. Each project will have a profound impact and drive substantial changes towards a more sustainable future."

Laila Mostafa Abdullatif, Director General at Emirates Nature-WWF, emphasised the importance of an active civil society in making measurable contributions to nature and conservation.

She remarked, "A green sustainable future for all can be achieved by empowering every individual to create a positive impact. We are delighted to partner with Emirates Foundation's Takatof Programme to encourage more people in the UAE to volunteer for nature, in nature. Through our Leaders of Change conservation activities and field trips, volunteers will discover the UAE's rich natural heritage and gain insights into the science behind conservation efforts."

Volunteers are tackling a diverse range of projects, such as the 'Falaj Clean-up and Revegetation' project that was recently held to



document biodiversity in the Al Bithnah village, Fujairah and the surrounding region. More than 100 volunteers participated in the initiative to assess and address local threats to the environment by surveying and removing litter from the traditional falaj canals and nature heritage trail; visiting plant nurseries to learn about native species; and contributing to efforts to restore the natural ecosystems of the beautiful Hajar Mountains.

Upcoming volunteering opportunities include:

- ‘Kayak for Conservation’ on Sunday, 17th September in Reem Central Park, Abu Dhabi. On this guided kayak tour, volunteers will learn about mangrove ecosystems, collect and remove litter, and geo-tag data around the littler to inform national policies on single-use plastic.
- ‘Protect our Pollinators’ on Sunday, 22nd October in Wadi Naqab, Ras Al Khaimah. Native plants and insects like bees and butterflies are vital to the health and functioning of ecosystems. As part of this activity, volunteers will restore pollinator habitats and plant wildflowers and plants, to create safe havens for these important insects.
- ‘Litter Spotter’ on Saturday, 18th November in Qidfa, Fujairah. Volunteers work towards achieving the goal of #noplasticinnature by recording and geo-tagging litter found in natural spaces and safely disposing of it.

The Leaders of Change community has grown to surpass 3,000 members and contributes thousands of hours to protect nature every year. Individuals and families are welcome to sign up for the annual membership programme.

High School Students At Heart Of Unique Global Climate Change Challenge

A bold new partnership between Burjeel Holdings and the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School will help address the climate crisis through a unique open challenge for students.

The new collaboration will deliver a competition, known as the 'Burjeel Holdings Oxford Saïd climate change challenge', focused on raising

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awareness amongst high school students across the world of the risks of climate change, in the run up to COP28 later this year in the UAE.

The challenge will also extend to high school educators, who will be invited to submit lesson plans related to climate change. The winning submission will be recognised in the UAE. The winners of the challenge and the educator will be invited to Oxford Saïd to participate in a climate change program in the spring of 2024.

Commenting on the collaboration, Burjeel Holdings Founder and Chairman Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil, said, "We are pleased to collaborate with Oxford Saïd for the climate change initiative. As healthcare providers, we recognise the well-being of our communities is deeply intertwined with the health of our environment and that a collective global effort is crucial to confront the climate

crisis. The challenge aims to nurture a generation of students and high school educators, so they can foster innovative solutions to ensure an equitable and sustainable future."

Soumitra Dutta, Peter Moores Dean at Oxford Saïd, said, "Climate change is the greatest and most complex threat to humanity, and today's young students will be living with its impacts in ways we do not yet understand. That is why this partnership with Burjeel Holdings is both exciting and important."

The climate change challenge is supported by the world renowned Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford Saïd, which equips entrepreneurial leaders at the University of Oxford, and worldwide, to tackle the climate crisis and other systemic challenges.

ID. 2all Concept: Making E-Mobility Accessible

The Volkswagen brand is continuing the success story of its compact cars in the age of electric mobility and is providing a first glimpse of an all-electric Volkswagen costing less than 25,000 euros with the ID. 2all concept car.

Initial facts: front-wheel drive, range of up to 450 km, innovative technological features



ID. 2all shows the new Volkswagen design language, presentation of the production version in 2025

such as Travel Assist, IQ.LIGHT or Electric Vehicle Route Planner and a new Volkswagen design language. This ID.2all hatchback, a thinly veiled concept car points the way to VW's next-gen design language - at least, for its products in Europe.

The production version will be based on the MEB Entry platform and is one of 10 new electric models that Volkswagen will launch over the next three years in its global markets.

Thomas Schäfer, CEO of Volkswagen Passenger Cars, said: "We are transforming the company rapidly and fundamentally - with the clear objective of making Volkswagen a genuine Love Brand. The ID. 2all shows where we want to take the brand. We want to be close to the customer and offer top technology in combination with fantastic design. We are implementing the

Premium innovations include Travel Assist, IQ.LIGHT or Electric Vehicle Route Planner



transformation at pace to bring electric mobility to the masses.”

The future is indeed electric but for the foreseeable part, that future may be out of reach for most consumers. Affordability is an issue and despite electric car prices coming down, for the most part it is a segment mostly reserved in the luxury space. Volkswagen however intends to change all that with its new ID.2all concept electric vehicle.

Volkswagen will present the production version of the ID. 2all for the European market in 2025. The goal is a starting price of less than 25,000 euros.

Imelda Labbé, Member of the Brand Board of Management responsible for Sales, Marketing and Aftersales, said: “We are transferring the

typical Volkswagen virtues to the new world of mobility: top quality and workmanship, outstanding software and digital services with genuine added value. The focus here is always on the needs and requirements of our customers.”

Volkswagen is set to invest hundreds of billions over the next few years to move toward electrification, and the ID. 2all shows it means business

Development of the ID. 2all is based on the latest evolutionary stage of the modular electric drive (MEB) platform. Kai Grunitz, Member of the Brand Board of Management responsible for Technical



Development: "The ID. 2all will be the first MEB vehicle with front-wheel drive. We are exploiting the great flexibility offered by our modular electric drive (MEB) platform and will set new standards in terms of technology and everyday usability with the MEB Entry platform."

With the enhanced MEB Entry platform, the ID. 2all is equipped with particularly efficient drive, battery and charging technology. It has a powerful electric drive motor with an output of 166 kW/226 PS and will have a calculated WLTP range of up to 450 kilometres.

Volkswagen is also again placing greater focus on design. Andreas Mindt, Head of Design at Volkswagen Passenger Cars, said: "The ID. 2all gives a preview of the new design language of Volkswagen, which is based on the three pillars stability, likeability and excitement."

Exterior design: friendly face, very dynamic and new C-pillar signature

One element of this new design language is the C-pillar design developed for the first Golf. The ID. 2all is the first Volkswagen with a new interpretation of this signature. Other design features of the concept car include a body with a clear and powerful stance on the wheels, a friendly face, a good portion of dynamics and timeless elegance.

Interior design: spacious, high-quality appearance, self-explanatory operation

The interior also has a clear design and is characterised by a high-quality appearance, a self-explanatory infotainment system with classic volume control and a separate air conditioning block. The storage volume is a generous 490-1,330 litres, a value exceeding

The model embodies a new interpretation of the DNA of Volkswagen icons and is built upon the brand's modular electric drive (MEB) platform



that of higher vehicle classes.

Accelerated electric offensive: 10 new electric models by 2026

The production version of the ID. 2all is one of 10 new electric models that will be launched by Volkswagen by 2026. This year alone will see the introduction of the new ID.302, the ID. Buzz with long wheelbase⁰³ and the ID.704. This will be followed by a compact electric SUV in 2026 and, in spite of all the challenges, Volkswagen is also working on an electric car at a price of less than 20,000 euros.

This will give the car manufacturer the widest range of electric vehicles compared with its competitors, and the company is aiming to achieve an electric car share of 80% in Europe. Volkswagen Passenger Cars has previously based its calculations on a share of 70%.



UN Roadmap Outlines Solutions To Cut Global Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution could reduce by 80 per cent by 2040 if countries and companies make deep policy and market shifts using existing technologies, according to a new report by UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The report is released ahead of a second round of negotiations in Paris on a global agreement to beat plastic pollution, and outlines the magnitude



'Turning off the Tap: How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy' is a solutions-focused analysis of concrete practices, market shifts, and policies that can inform government thinking and business action.

and nature of the changes required to end plastic pollution and create a circular economy.

'Turning off the Tap: How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy' is a solutions-focused analysis of concrete practices, market shifts, and policies that can inform government thinking and business action.

"The way we produce, use and dispose of plastics is polluting ecosystems, creating risks for human health and destabilizing the climate," said Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director. "This UNEP report lays out a roadmap to dramatically reduce these risks through adopting a circular approach that keeps plastics out of ecosystems, out of our bodies and in the economy. If we follow this roadmap, including in negotiations on the plastic pollution deal, we can deliver major economic, social and environmental wins."

Plastic pollution could reduce by 80 per cent by 2040 if countries and companies make deep policy and market shifts using existing technologies



Market shifts needed for the market transformation toward circularity

To slash plastic pollution by 80 per cent globally by 2040, the report suggests first eliminating problematic and unnecessary plastics to reduce the size of the problem. Subsequently, the report calls for three market shifts – reuse, recycle and reorient and diversify products:

Reuse: Promoting reuse options, including refillable bottles, bulk dispensers, deposit-return-schemes, packaging take-back schemes etc., can reduce 30 per cent of plastic pollution by 2040. To realize its potential, governments must help build a stronger business case for reusables.

Recycle: Reducing plastic pollution by an additional 20 per cent by 2040 can be achieved if recycling becomes a more stable and profitable venture. Removing fossil fuels subsidies,

enforcing design guidelines to enhance recyclability, and other measures would increase the share of economically recyclable plastics from 21 to 50 per cent.

Reorient and diversify: Careful replacement of products such as plastic wrappers, sachets and takeaway items with products made from alternative materials (such as paper or compostable materials) can deliver an additional 17 per cent decrease in plastic pollution.

Even with the above measures, 100 million metric tons of plastics from single-use and short-lived products will still need to be safely dealt with annually by 2040 – together with a significant legacy of existing plastic pollution. This can be addressed by setting and implementing design and safety standards for disposing of non-recyclable plastic waste, and by making



manufacturers responsible for products shedding microplastics, among others.

Overall, the shift to a circular economy would result in USD 1.27 trillion in savings, considering costs and recycling revenues. A further USD 3.25 trillion would be saved from avoided externalities such as health, climate, air pollution, marine ecosystem degradation, and litigation-related costs. This shift could also result in a net increase of 700,000 jobs by 2040, mostly in low-income countries, significantly improving the livelihoods of millions of workers in informal settings.

Investment costs for the recommended systemic change are significant, but below the spending without this systemic change: USD 65 billion per year as opposed to USD 113 billion per year. Much of this can be mobilized by shifting planned investments for new production facilities – no

longer needed through reduction in material needs – or a levy on virgin plastic production into the necessary circular infrastructure. Yet time is of the essence: a five-year delay may lead to an increase of 80 million metric tons of plastic pollution by 2040.

The highest costs in both a throwaway and circular economy are operational. While regulation to ensure plastics are designed to be circular, Extended Producer Responsibility schemes can cover these operational costs of ensuring the system's circularity through requiring producers to finance the collection, recycling and responsible end-of-life disposal of plastic products.

Internationally agreed policies can help overcome the limits of national planning and business action, sustain a flourishing circular global

The report calls for three market shifts – reuse, recycle and reorient and diversify products



plastics economy, unlock business opportunities and create jobs. These may include agreed criteria for plastic products that could be banned, a cross-border knowledge baseline, rules on necessary minimum operating standards of EPR schemes and other standards.

The report recommends that a global fiscal framework could be part of international policies to enable recycled materials to compete on a level playing field with virgin materials, create an economy of scale for solutions, and establish monitoring systems and financing mechanisms.

Crucially, policymakers are encouraged to embrace an approach that integrates regulatory instruments and policies tackling actions across the life cycle, as these are mutually reinforcing towards the goal of transforming the economy. For example, design rules to make products

economically recyclable can be combined with targets to incorporate recycled content and fiscal incentives for recycling plants.

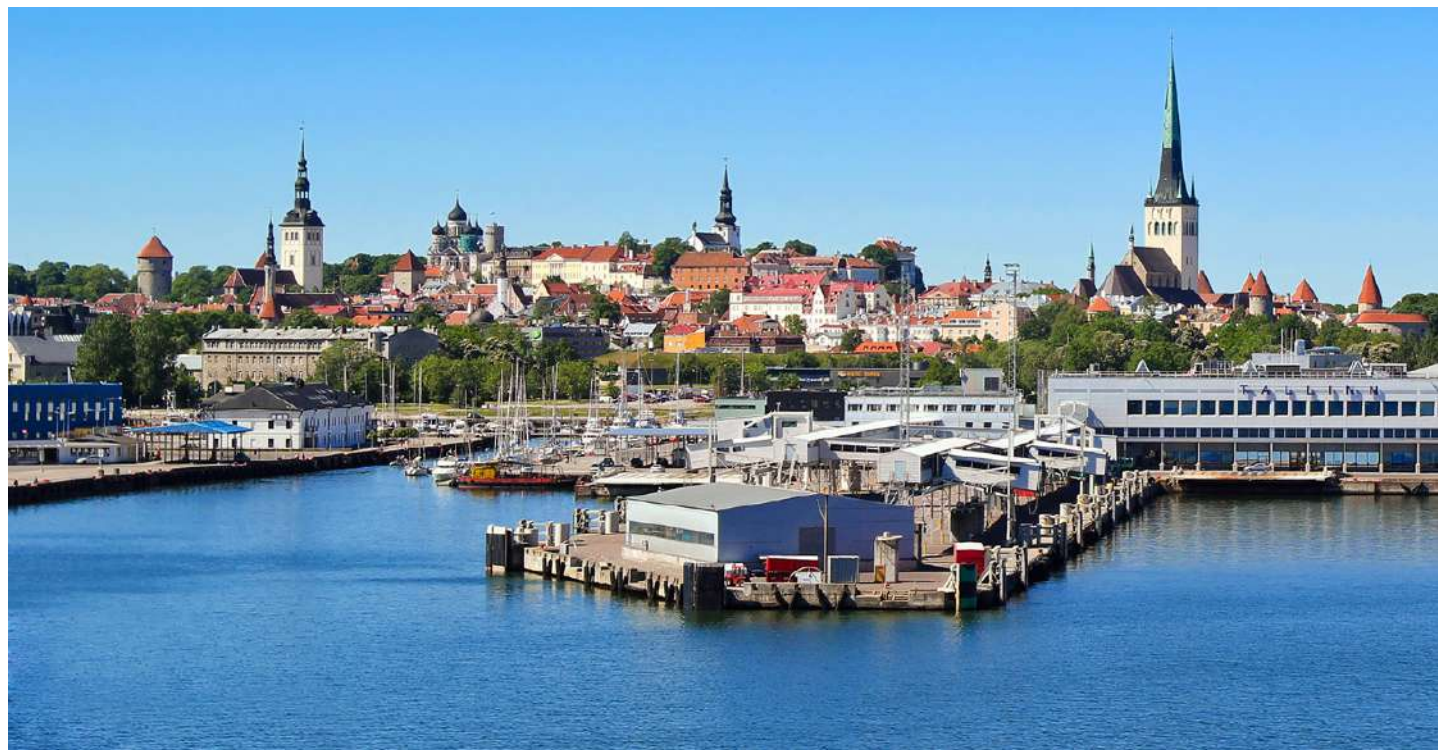
The report also addresses specific policies, including standards for design, safety, and compostable and biodegradable plastics; targets for minimum recycling; EPR schemes; taxes; bans; communication strategies; public procurement, and labeling.



Tallinn, Estonia: European Green Capital of 2023

Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, is a beautiful medieval city whose historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As the largest city of Estonia, it has a population of 393,222 and is located on the coast of the Gulf of Finland in the Baltic Sea. Ever since the country received independence in 1991, following the Soviet era, the capital of Tallinn



Tallinn gained the title of sustainability and innovation champion due to the country's systemic approach to green governance and interlinked strategic goals

has advanced hugely in areas of sustainable development.

The Old Town of Tallinn has earned recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage site due to its medieval architecture and its park network has also grown in size with 90 m² of public green areas. These protected areas make up 19.5 per cent of the city. Tallinn is also characterised by a diverse and mosaic nature of landscapes which also serve as habitats for rare species.

Tallinn's dedication to a biodiverse, climate-resilient and eco-friendly future earned it the European Green Capital Award in 2023. The city is planning over 60 green capital projects, events and initiatives, including 17 international events through the year, which will be focused on the themes of biodiversity, sustainable governance, and climate and green innovation.

Tallinn is one of Europe's greenest cities, with many parks and other green areas spread across the capital



Long-term strategy

After a history of heavy, polluting industry, today Tallinn has come a long way. In 2021, Tallinn introduced its 2035 Development Strategy. This ambitious plan addresses several aspects of a greener society, from carbon neutrality and climate adaptation to sustainable energy and food production. Through smart urban planning, natural soil will cover at least 65% of Tallinn in the future.

As it is located on the Baltic coast, Tallinn is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As a result, it has invested in various measures to combat these effects, including stormwater management systems and street remodelling.

Urban mobility

Climate-friendly strategies are included in Tallinn

2035's goal for urban mobility, which is for its citizens to be able to reach all necessary infrastructure within 15 minutes via soft modes of transport (walking, cycling etc.). By 2035, the city aims for 70% of journeys to be via public or soft transportation.

It introduced free public transport for its inhabitants back in 2013, the first European capital to do so. All these measures are part of a wider city Climate Action Plan to adapt to the risks posed by climate change and work towards carbon neutrality by 2050. Part of this plan is a pledge to cut 40% of greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the decade.

The city's long-term strategy is supported by the Tallinn Landscaping Action Plan, the Rainwater Strategy, and a Sustainable Energy Action Plan which includes strict efficiency requirements for buildings.

Biodiversity

The city has a long history of encouraging environmental sustainability. The first legal act of nature conservation to protect Tallinn's nature dates back to the 13th century, when a Danish king regulated forest-cutting on four of the city's islands. Tallinn is also a signatory of the Green





City Accord, an EU initiative to make cities cleaner, greener and healthier.

Today, Tallinn has more than 2100 hectares of protected areas. The city has parks, forests, alvers, meadows, heaths, sand dunes, rivers, lakes, cliffs, sandy beaches, valleys, reeds, bogs and even its own island. As the European Green Capital, Tallinn will focus on restoring and protecting its biodiversity: restoring a favourite hiking area Pääsküla bog and designing the Pollinator Highway – a vibrant 14 km long linear park that will stretch along an old railway dam and electric powerlines corridor and is an example of sustainable co-existence of biodiversity and urbanization.

One program—Green Tracks—will create innovative pop-up solutions to reinvent problematic places in Tallinn’s urban space. The

aim is to increase Tallinn’s biodiversity as well as create a safe and pleasant urban space for everyone. For example, the Town Hall Square will temporarily be turned into a pop-up park and the students at the Estonian Academy of Arts will be creating prototypes for climate sensitive spatial objects like street furniture and traffic signs.

Tallinn cooperates with other organisations to make the city more sustainable. For example, in creating environmentally friendly guidelines for events and food. Sustainable Green Dishes are available in many Tallinn’s restaurants and one of Tallinn’s most loved events, the Youth Song and Dance festival in June will be environmentally conscious. On European Day in May, Tallinn planted a tree for every participating group from the city.

Tallinn is well known as a hub of information

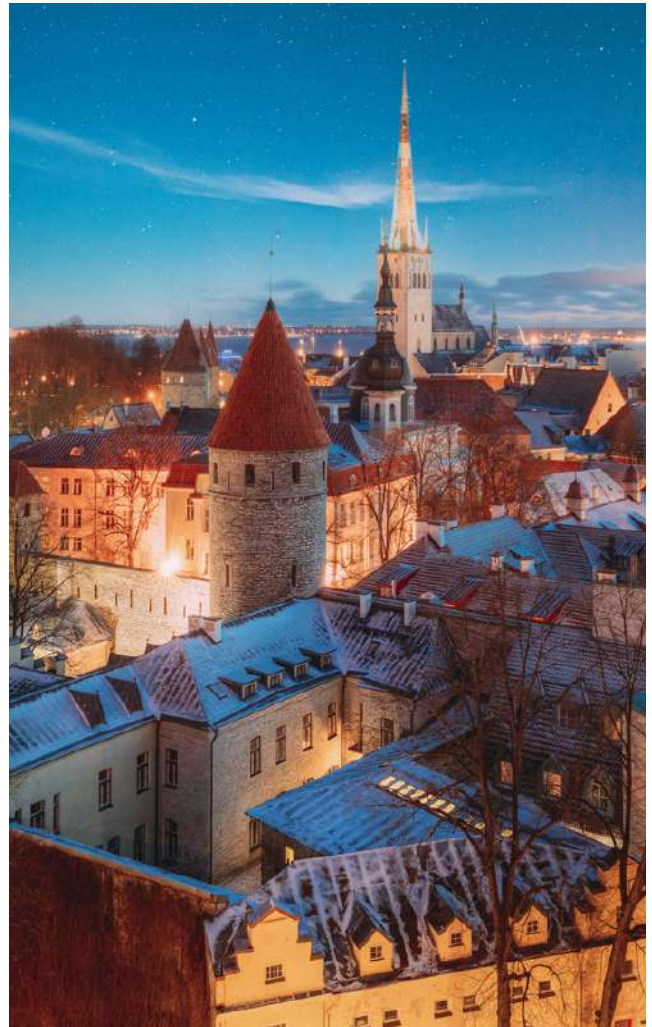
A 13km pollinator highway is in the making, a natural meadow through the city for nature to flourish



technology and lays emphasis on promoting eco-innovation and cooperation between leading companies, investors and scientists in green technology.

Why Tallin?

- The city's ambitious development strategy "Tallinn 2035" addresses carbon neutrality, climate adaptation, innovation, health, mobility, biodiversity, circular economy, sustainable energy and food production.
- To boost biodiversity, the city is planning GoGreenRoutes where citizens can co-design nature-based solutions and urban gardening.
- Tallinn is committed to climate adaptation and resilience and has introduced stormwater management systems. Remodelling of streets are also in place and new projects take urban greenery into account in city planning.
- Tallinn is the first European capital to offer free public transport to its citizens (since 2013).
- Another goal for urban mobility is that its citizens should be able to reach all necessary infrastructure within 15 min via soft transport modes.
- The city is also exemplary in their use of digital tools to optimise nature-based solutions in renovation projects.



AD Ports Group, Vale Plan Low-Carbon Mega Hub To Support Steel Industry

AD Ports Group has signed an MoU with the world's largest producer of iron ore and nickel.

The MoU signed with one of the largest logistics operators in Brazil, Vale S. A. (Vale), aims to develop a Mega Hub in Abu Dhabi for industrial complexes that produce low-carbon products for the steelmaking industry for both the local



and seaborne markets, with a significant reduction of CO2 emissions.

The agreement will see an allocation of land and related services from KEZAD for the Mega Hub, in addition to the development and management of a state-of-the-art handling facility at Khalifa Port, capable of accommodating Valemax vessels with a handling capacity of up to 50 million tonnes of cargo per annum.

Furthermore, AD Ports Group will develop and manage conveyor infrastructure to transport iron ore and finished products to and from Khalifa Port and KEZAD and will be exploring commercial collaboration with Vale on the marketing and sale of various bi-products of the manufacturing process in the UAE and the wider region.

The agreement also includes a maritime collaboration to explore opportunities related to

the management and operation of very large ore carriers and other avenues of partnership.

Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, MD and CEO of AD Ports Group, said, "Growth and sustainability must go hand in hand. Our collaboration with Vale is a key step in our contribution towards meeting the UAE Net Zero 2050 strategic initiative."

The Mega Hub initiative contributes to Vale's commitment to reduce 15 percent of net Scope 3 emissions by 2035. Additionally, Vale seeks to reduce its absolute Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 33 percent by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement, leading the evolution process towards sustainable mining.

By leveraging their collective strengths, AD Ports Group and Vale are seeking to enhance the overall efficiency of the global supply chain.

DEWA Employees Recycle 222,000 Plastic Bottles, Aluminum Cans

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) is prioritising environmental protection as it actively engages employees and customers in sustainable practices during the Year of Sustainability.

DEWA has implemented a smart recycling initiative, employing innovative machines in its buildings to recycle plastic bottles. Through the



use of DEWA's Smart Office app, employees can operate the machines, earning points for each recycling operation and entering raffle draws for valuable monthly prizes.

Since the installation of these smart machines in October 2022, DEWA's employees have successfully recycled 221,900 plastic bottles and aluminum cans. A local company, employing sustainable manufacturing solutions, has utilised these materials to produce over 11,600 T-shirts and other products.

This initiative embraces the circular economy model, stimulating economic growth while safeguarding the environment and promoting sustainable practices, including resource reuse, waste reduction, and emissions reduction to combat climate change.

Aligned with the Dubai Integrated Waste

Management Strategy 2021-2041, DEWA's recycling initiative supports waste management innovation, recycling, waste-to-energy conversion, and the provision of practical solutions to environmental challenges. Moreover, it aligns with DEWA's Circular Economy Strategy, which optimises resource utilisation and enhances social, economic, and environmental value to foster sustainability in the UAE.

The strategy encompasses various principles, such as circular design, optimised asset management, value retention, renewable energy and water efficiency, and circular partnerships.

DEWA's Circular Economy Strategy is a comprehensive framework that embraces international best practices, promotes socio-economic growth, and ensures the sustainability of natural resources.

NARNEDGE

RCYLCEE

ELNADPASC
EGYENRER

YICOLP

ESDERT

CIATEML

SNUITSA

Answers: 1) POLICY 2) DESERTS 3) GREENERY 4) LANDSCAPE 5) RECYCLE 6) CLIMATE 7) ENDANGER 9) SUSTAIN

Word
Search

I	T	C	A	E	P	C	E	M	G	I	E	C	C
C	Y	T	L	C	V	C	R	C	L	E	C	M	M
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FREETRADE

CLIMATE

REUSE

CYCLING

ENERGY

VEGANISM

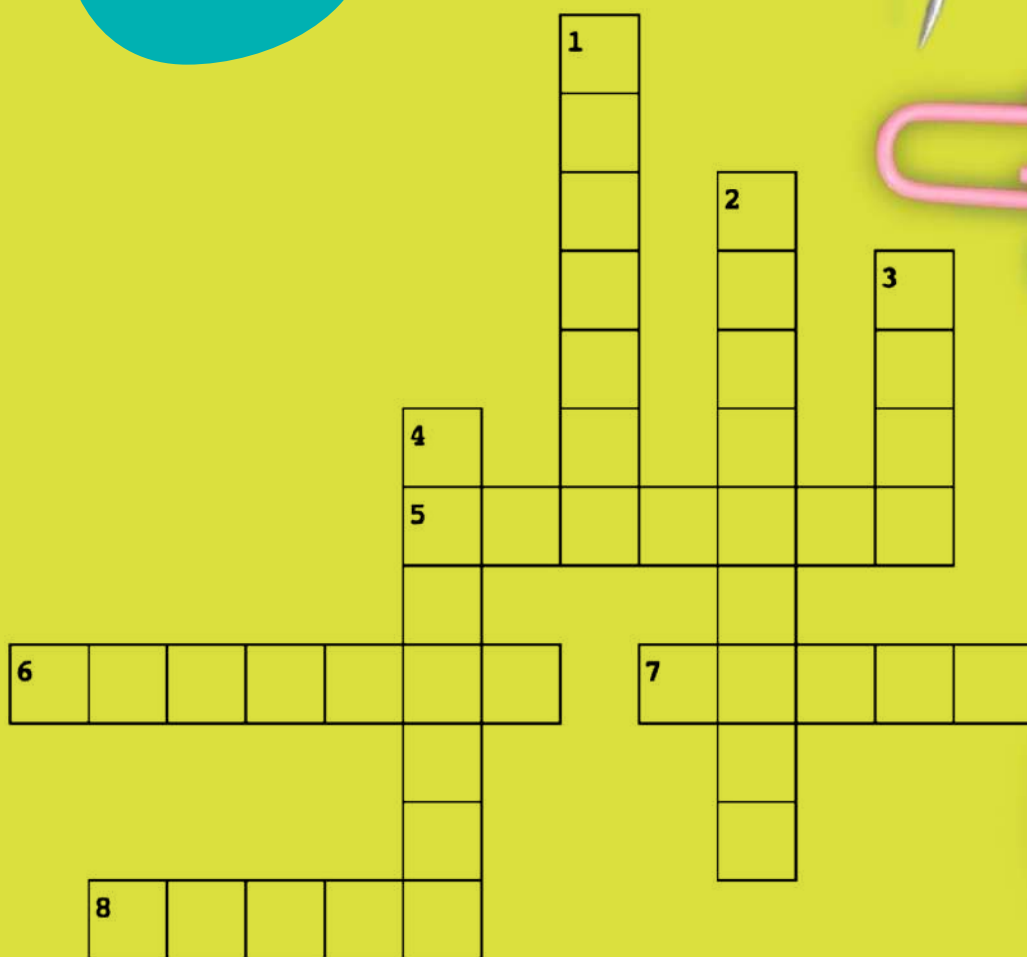
PLASTICS

TURTLES

ECONOMIC

RECYCLE

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 5. Having no living representative
- 6. Marine reptiles
- 7. Not throw out
- 8. Tall plants

Down

- 1. Keep from danger
- 2. One raising a hand
- 3. Loose soil
- 4. Arid expanses

1) Protect 2) Volunteer 3) Dirt 4) Deserts 5) Extinct
6) Turtles 7) Reuse 8) Trees

WORD OF THE DAY:

NET ZERO

'Net Zero' means achieving a balance between the amount of emissions produced and those removed from the atmosphere in order to reduce global warming.

Science has shown that human production of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, determines the overall extent of global warming. Reducing these greenhouse gas emissions is key in preventing catastrophic climate change.

As a result, governments across the world have agreed to try and achieve net zero emissions by 2050 as part of the Paris Agreement, which was signed in 2016.

What Does it Mean?

Becoming net zero refers to balancing negative emissions by removing emissions from the atmosphere to achieve carbon neutrality.

This can be understood by using the metaphor of a sink being filled up with water. You can either turn off the taps (emissions reduction) or remove the plug and drain the water (removing emissions from the atmosphere) to prevent the sink from overflowing. Net zero is the equivalent of making sure the amount of water coming from the tap is equal to that being drained through the plughole.

Net zero allows for some emissions to be above zero so long as they are balanced out elsewhere to achieve net zero carbon global emissions. Rather than attempting to reduce the amount of carbon emissions to zero, the net zero emissions target allows some areas to operate with positive rather than negative emissions. This allows for sectors where it would be difficult to reach net zero emissions, such as aviation, to operate while being offset by other sectors where it is easier to reduce emissions or find alternatives for energy consumption.



How can net zero be achieved?

Transitioning to a net-zero world is one of the greatest challenges humankind has faced. It calls for nothing less than a complete transformation of how we produce, consume, and move about. The energy sector is the source of around three-quarters of greenhouse gas emissions today and holds the key to averting the worst effects of climate change. Replacing polluting coal, gas and oil-fired power with energy from renewable sources, such as wind or solar, would dramatically reduce carbon emissions.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – JUNE 5

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually on June 5 since 1973, World Environment Day is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world. In 2023, it is hosted by Côte D'Ivoire.

This year, World Environment Day aims to spotlight solutions to plastic pollution. More than 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year worldwide, half of which are designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 per cent is recycled.

An estimated 19-23 million tonnes end up in lakes, rivers and seas annually. That is approximately the weight of 2,200 Eiffel Towers all together. Microplastics – tiny plastic particles up to 5mm in diameter – find their way into food, water and air. It is estimated that each person on the planet consumes more than 50,000 plastic particles per year –and many more if inhalation is considered.

Discarded or burnt single-use plastic harms human health and biodiversity and pollutes every ecosystem from mountain tops to the ocean floor. With available science and solutions to tackle the problem, governments, companies and other stakeholders must scale up and speed actions to solve this crisis.

This underscores the importance of this World Environment Day in mobilizing transformative action from every corner of the world.

WORLD OCEANS DAY – JUNE 8

Originally an idea put forward by the Canadian Government at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, World Oceans Day has been organised by the Ocean Project group since 2002. In 2008 the day gained official recognition from the UN General Assembly, a boost in raising the profile of the day and its goals. The number of countries and organisations who mark World Oceans Day grows each year in recognition of the importance of oceans worldwide.

The ocean covers over 70% of the planet. It is our life source, supporting humanity's sustenance and that of every other organism on earth.

The ocean produces at least 50% of the planet's oxygen, it is home to most of earth's biodiversity, and is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world. Not to mention, the ocean is key to our economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

Even though it has many benefits, the ocean is now in need of support. The theme for World Oceans Day 2023 is "Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean", and this year's event is being hosted at the headquarters of the UN in New York.

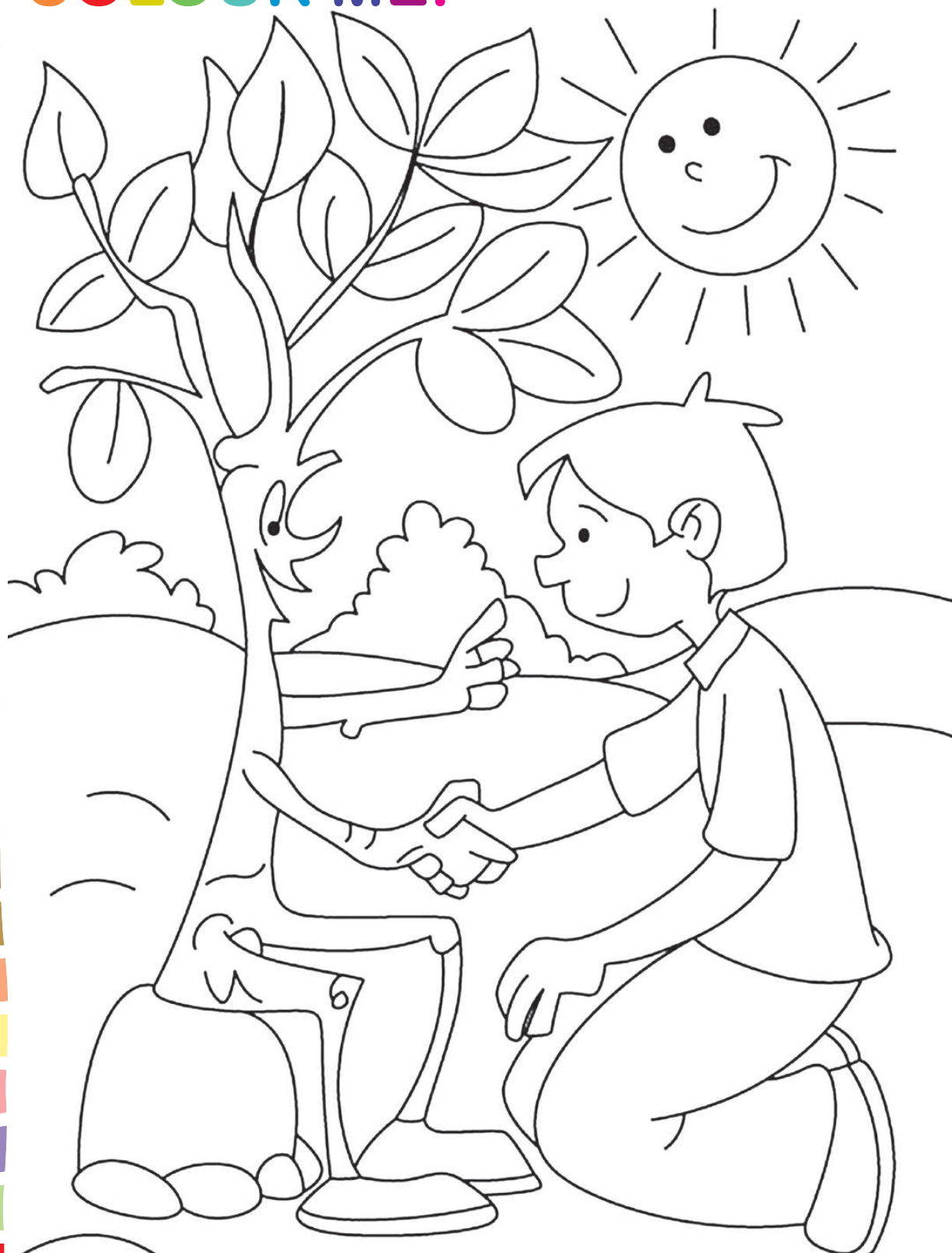


What can you do to help?

Things to Do...

- ☒ Volunteer for a Clean-up Drive
- ☒ Use both sides of a sheet of paper
- ☒ Recycle products
- ☒ Do not waste food!
- ☒ Cycle to places!

COLOUR ME!



WFP And UNEP Bolster Global Food And Water Security

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have signed an agreement to address the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, environmental degradation and biodiversity and ecosystem loss on the food and water security of millions of people around the world.

The agreement, signed in Nairobi by Cindy

AGREEMENT



McCain, WFP's Executive Director and Inger Andersen, UNEP's Executive Director, advances collaboration on climate change adaptation, nature-friendly food systems, water resource management and ecosystems restoration.

"Food and water go hand in hand: we urgently need to restore our ecosystems and scale up climate adaptation programs to ensure future generations have the basic resources needed to grow enough food," says Cindy McCain, WFP's Executive Director. "WFP's global footprint and operational scale, combined with UNEP's world-class scientific expertise, will help governments, communities, and families on the frontlines of the climate crisis better protect themselves. Our partnership will reduce humanitarian needs and support long-term solutions to hunger."

Water and food security are inextricably linked.

Water quality and quantity, whether too much or too little, affects food production, accessibility, availability and utilisation. Climate extremes such as droughts and floods are increasing in intensity and frequency and accelerating environmental degradation, ecosystem loss and ultimately people's ability to produce and access sufficient food.

"If we work more closely together, we can create real, meaningful impact. We can enhance climate mitigation and adaptation. We can support vulnerable populations to address nature-induced conflicts and natural disasters. We can maintain healthy, productive, and resilient ecosystems. We can deliver on both our mandates and reduce the vicious cycle of humanitarian and environmental crises," says Inger Andersen, UNEP's Executive Director.

Green Light For Global Greenhouse Gas Tracking Network

A hundred and ninety-three countries have unanimously approved the creation of a global greenhouse gas monitoring mechanism, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has announced.

The landmark decision comes as heat-trapping greenhouse gas concentrations are at record levels – “higher than at any time over the last



The new Global Greenhouse Gas Watch will combine observations from Earth and from space with modelling, to fill critical information gaps

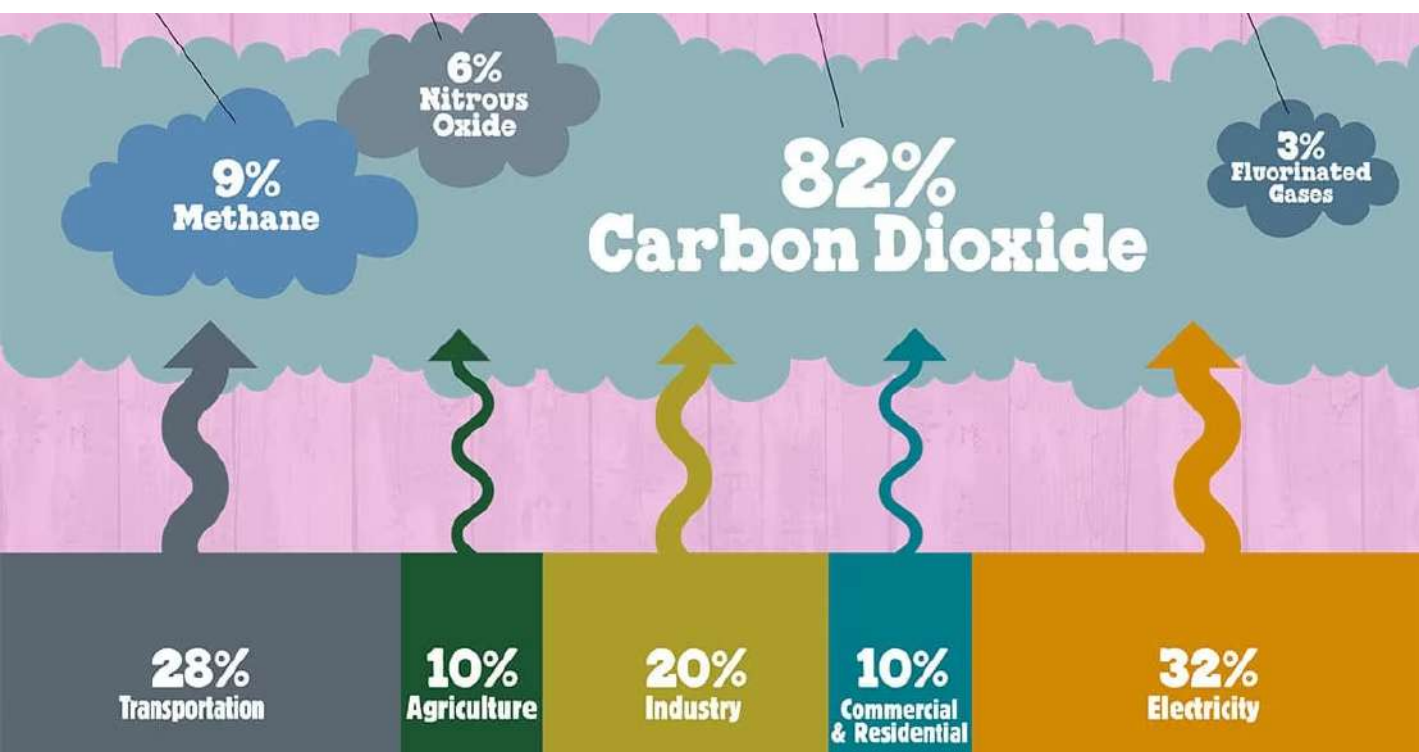
800,000 years,” WMO warned. The new Global Greenhouse Gas Watch will combine observations from Earth and from space with modelling, to fill critical information gaps. It will build on WMO’s experience in coordinating international collaboration on weather prediction.

The agency said that the exchange of data will be “free and unrestricted”, in support of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

According to WMO, between 1990 and 2021, the warming effect on our climate from the main greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, rose by nearly 50 per cent.

“We know from our measurements that greenhouse gas concentrations are at record levels”, said WMO Secretary-General Petteri

Between 1990 and 2021, the warming effect on the climate from the main GHGs, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, rose by nearly 50 per cent



Taalas. “The increase in carbon dioxide levels from 2020 to 2021 was higher than the average growth rate over the past decade and methane saw the biggest year-on-year jump since measurements started.

€350 million loan to strengthen food security

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have penned two agreements to further strengthen their cooperation in low- and middle-income countries worldwide, with a particular focus on Africa. The agreements were signed in Rome by EIB Vice-president Ambroise Fayolle and IFAD President Alvaro Lario.

The agreement signed for a total of €350 million is the second finance contract under the Framework agreement for the €500 million

package announced in November 2022. This EIB financing, in line with the EU's Global Gateway strategy, will strengthen IFAD's response to help small-scale farmers adapt to climate change and cope with the ongoing global food crisis linked to high food, fertiliser, and fuel prices.

In addition to improving food security, the deal will strengthen small-scale farmers' resilience to climate change and preserve natural resources, safeguarding the environment. The initial tranche of €150 million was disbursed in March 2023.

The procedural framework agreement supports the growing trend of cooperation and mutual reliance, drawing upon previously established frameworks with other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to provide clear, consistent, and resource-efficient procurement structures.

WHO Report Warns Of Accelerating Food Insecurity Worldwide

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) new report, "Grow food, not tobacco", has recalled that a record 349 million people are facing acute food insecurity, many of them in some 30 countries on the African continent, where tobacco cultivation has increased by 15 percent in the last decade.

Ahead of World No Tobacco Day on 31st May,



WHO deplored that 3.2 million hectares of fertile land across 124 countries are being used to grow deadly tobacco – even in places where people are starving. With hunger spreading worldwide and tobacco responsible for eight million deaths each year, countries should stop subsidising tobacco crops and help farmers grow food.

According to WHO, nine of the 10 largest tobacco cultivators are low and middle-income countries. Tobacco farming compounds these countries' food security challenges by taking up arable land. The environment and the communities which rely on it also suffer, as the crop's expansion drives deforestation, contamination of water sources and soil degradation.

The report also exposes the tobacco industry for trapping farmers in a vicious cycle of dependence and exaggerating the economic benefits of tobacco as a cash crop.

Dr. Rüdiger Krech, WHO's Director for Health Promotion, said that the crop contributes less than 1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in most tobacco-growing countries and that the profits go to the world's major cigarette-makers.

WHO, along with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have joined forces around the Tobacco Free Farms initiative to help thousands of farmers in countries like Kenya and Zambia to grow sustainable food crops instead of tobacco.

The programme provides farmers with microcredit lending to pay off their debts with tobacco companies, knowledge and training to grow alternative crops, and a market for their harvest, thanks to the World Food Programme's local procurement initiatives.

Emirates NBD Continues Sustainability Journey With Four New LEED Certifications

Emirates NBD has announced that four of its branches in the UAE and KSA have achieved LEED Platinum and LEED Gold certifications.

The Emirates NBD Mall of the Emirates (MOE) branch in Dubai is now the first LEED Platinum ID+C V4 bank in the MENA region and the first Arab bank branch globally to obtain this certificate, marking a significant milestone in

UAE NEWS



the bank's sustainability journey. The Emirates NBD Capital LTD office at ICD Brookfield in Dubai was also awarded LEED Platinum certification, while the Emirates NBD branches in Dammam and Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia obtained a LEED Gold certificate.

Previously, Emirates NBD's branches in Umm Suqeim, Nakheel Mall, Burj Khalifa, and Al Quds, Riyadh in KSA, secured the prestigious LEED Gold certification.

Marwan Hadi, Group Head, Retail Banking and Wealth Management at Emirates NBD, commented, "As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, we are accelerating efforts through additional LEED Platinum and LEED Gold certification for four of our branches."

Vijay Bains, Group Chief Sustainability Officer and Group Head of ESG at Emirates NBD,

commented, "Sustainability has been at the core of our strategy for years. Obtaining these prestigious LEED certifications is a testament to Emirates NBD's commitment to operating sustainably, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, UAE Vision 2030, and the Dubai Declaration for Sustainable Finance."

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system, developed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), is the foremost programme for buildings, homes, and communities designed, constructed, maintained, and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.

Emirates NBD contributes to and invests in socially responsible programmes and solutions that address the UN SDGs and the UAE Vision 2030.

World Environment Day 2023

On the occasion of World Environment Day this year, the UN is calling on us to #BeatPlasticPollution.

Plastic pollution has now turned into a more serious problem because of Micro-plastic and Nano-plastic pollution. Microplastic particles are found everywhere - in air, water, soil, plant and animal tissues, and even our drinking water and food.

What kinds of solutions have been presented so far? Recently, some worms were found to bore through plastic so easily using two enzymes. This opens the door for biodegradation of polyethylene, which is the most difficult to break down and which makes up 30% of all plastic. Another recent discovery was that of the use of magnetic power to collect microplastics from seas and oceans. A material containing iron is spread to attract



Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International
Foundation for the
Environment

microplastic and then collected using magnetic attraction. There are also several other mechanical methods that activists are using to collect plastic waste from water or from the top of the soil.

Although recycling is very popular, it covers only a small percent of plastic waste which is now one of the top environmental and health hazards. It is believed that at the current rate of plastic pollution, the number of plastic particles in the ocean will exceed the number of fishes by 2050.

Therefore, we need to think out of the box and tap into not only hardware and software solutions, but also humanware solutions. We must count on human beings as well instead of relying solely on machines to #BeatPlasticPollution.

We must reduce plastic consumption and ban many types of plastic products. As individuals, we must reduce plastic waste by beginning to refuse the use of single use plastic products, avoiding unnecessary use of plastic, sorting plastic from other waste, and practicing recycling. Government policies must encourage such behavior and provide the necessary infrastructure for recycling and proper disposal of plastic.

Let us all be part of the solution rather than being part of the problem. Starting today, each one of you can refuse using single use plastic and non-biodegradable plastic bags. You can also sort out your plastic waste to reuse it or take it to the right place to be recycled properly.

Together, we can #BeatPlasticPollution and save our mother Earth!



Zayed International Prize for the Environment



Together for a green century

THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment