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Sheikh Hamdan launches first phase of AED4 billion waste-to-energy centre



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Rolls-Royce Spectre: A New Expression Of Luxury



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Together for a green home

Chairman's Message

In the quest for a greener, more sustainable future and its unwavering commitment to achieve its ambitious Net Zero by 2050 vision, Dubai's strategic approach to waste management is transforming waste into a valuable asset while catalyzing a paradigm shift in energy generation.

Central to this strategic shift is the adoption of advanced technologies to convert non-recyclable waste materials into clean and renewable energy. By deploying cutting-edge incineration, gasification, and anaerobic digestion processes, Dubai's waste-to-energy projects harness the inherent energy locked within waste, turning it into electricity, heat, and even transport fuels. This transition from linear waste management to a circular economy exemplifies Dubai's visionary leadership in sustainability.

The launch of the new Waste to Energy project also has a twofold impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Firstly, by diverting waste from landfills, the city significantly reduces methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas with a far greater impact on global warming than carbon dioxide. Secondly, waste-derived



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

energy displaces fossil fuels, leading to substantial reductions in overall carbon emissions, effectively propelling Dubai closer to its Net Zero ambitions.

The waste-to-energy sector also presents a wealth of economic opportunities. Dubai's investments in research, technology development, and infrastructure construction foster a thriving ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship. The growing waste-to-energy industry attracts private sector involvement and foreign investment, further bolstering economic growth and propelling the city towards becoming a global green energy hub.

Moreover, the visionary leadership demonstrated by Dubai's waste-to-energy initiatives sets an inspiring example for other cities worldwide, to usher in a culture of waste reduction and responsible consumption. In addition, such projects foster continuous research to drive innovation, improve efficiency, and reduce costs associated with advanced technologies.

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GENDER EQUALITY: General Women's Union organises discussion on 'Gender Dimensions of Climate Change and Gender-Responsive Climate Action'



Upcoming events

World Water Week

Date: August 20-24

Location: Stockholm and online

Under the theme 'Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World', World Water Week 2023 invites us to rethink how we manage water. Which ideas, innovations, and governance systems will we need in a more unstable and water scarce world?

This leading global conference on water-related issues also hosts sessions on topics like innovation, behavioural change, technology, and governance. Drawing on the latest scientific knowledge and experiences from around the world, experts will explore how water can be a powerful tool to address the climate crisis, global heating, biodiversity loss, poverty, and many other water-related challenges.

Pollution Free, Nature Positive, Net Zero Fashion

Date: August 22

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Amidst the rise of globalisation, fashion supply chains have become progressively long and complex – and highly degradative. The industry accounts for between 2-8% of global GHG emissions, generates large quantities of waste due to the short lifespan of products and is resource intensive. Wet processing factories use 0.58 kg of chemical inputs for every 1 kg of fabric produced. These compounds leak into the environment at all phases of the lifecycle, polluting water and soil, even food.

This session seeks to highlight the need for accelerated action on fashion supply chains, examining the role of global public institutions and funding in working with the private sector to improve design, sourcing, production and consumption in the industry. The discussion will generate new ideas and strategies to establish pollution free, nature positive and net-zero supply chains.

ICGET 2023

Date: August 17-19

Location: Frankfurt, Germany

The 8th International Conference on Green Energy Technologies serves to foster communication among researchers and practitioners working in a wide variety of scientific areas with a common interest. The conference is also an excellent forum for scientists, engineers throughout the world to present and discuss the latest technological advancement as well as future directions and trends in the field.

Zayed International Foundation For The Environment Partners With SEE Institute To Host Discussions On Green Finance And ESG



In collaboration with the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, the SEE Institute, a hub for sustainability education, research and business incubation in Dubai, organised its Second Climate Talk Series titled “Green Finance and ESG: Driving Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future”.

Led by insightful discussions and expert presentations, the joint hosting of the event at the SEE Institute marks the first-of-its-kind collaboration between the two entities to drive greater awareness and engage industry stakeholders in the dialogue on developing competencies for tackling climate change.

Held ahead of the UAE’s hosting of COP28 later this year, the Green Finance and ESG session delved into the crucial intersection of various aspects of finance and sustainability and

explored the role of green finance in addressing climate change challenges and driving the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Distinguished speakers and thought leaders from the finance and sustainability sectors gathered to share their insights, experiences and innovative approaches to mobilizing financial resources for sustainable projects. Dr. Jasmina Locke, CEO of the SEE Institute welcomed guests at the event. Amongst the key topics under discussion included sustainable investments, green bonds, carbon pricing, and sustainable banking practices.

In an engaging keynote address, Dr. Hamdan Al Shaer, Member of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, highlighted the role of sustainable finance solutions in enhancing the resilience of



the UAE's infrastructure and economy. Calling on finance and other professionals from diverse backgrounds to make transformational changes to their business strategy to deliver on climate targets and commitments, Dr. Hamdan Al Shaer said the intersection of innovation, sustainability and finance will be pivotal to unlocking critical infrastructure investment and to power the nation's ambitious Net Zero by 2050 vision.

To unleash the trillions of dollars in climate finance, coordinated multilateral action as well as joint international action that leverage innovative strategies will be a pre-requisite to draw in investments to combat climate change, he said. The finance sector can be a force for positive change and there are very real opportunities for shifts to both long term sustainability and profitability, added Dr. Hamdan Al Shaer.

With the demand for individuals and organizations to embrace and enhance their green finance knowledge and capabilities becoming more critical than ever before, Sameera Fernandes, Director - Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Century Financial, led a masterclass for professionals from a cross-section of disciplines on 'Investing in Sustainability: Financing Future Profitability'. Speaking to sustainability enthusiasts, financial advisors, investment managers, and ESG practitioners, amongst others, Sameera Fernandes highlighted the need for altering investment flows away from unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

She said: "The very fact that the UAE Government has an ambitious vision 2030 reinforces its commitment to making the UAE eco-friendlier and a sustainability champion in the region."



Sameera Fernandes continued: “So why is ESG reporting important? Who doesn't want to know about a company, what it does and where our hard-earned money is moving towards? This is what ESG is all about. To know how corporates or organizations can be environmentally and socially responsible while also having a very stringent governance structure.”

As a platform to exchange ideas and network with like-minded individuals passionate about advancing green finance and addressing climate-related issues, the Second Climate Talk Series also hosted a lively panel discussion titled, ‘Financing the Future: The Role of Green Finance in Addressing Climate Change and advancing sustainable Economies.’

Speakers on the panel included Matteo Boffa, Serial Impact-Entrepreneur & Investor; Dr. Nada

Sayarh, Assistant Dean – Executive MBA, SP Jain School of Global Management; Mohammad Al Taher, Representative Office General Manager, Bank of Palestine; and climate expert Tanzeed Alam, MD at Earth Matters Consulting. Dr. Jacinta Dsilva, Research Director at the SEE Institute moderated the talks.

Mohammad Al Taher, Representative Office General Manager, Bank of Palestine, said: “Our role as banks is significant and really important because at the end of the day, we are the ones who are financing the factories and the big projects. As banks, our responsibility is to find the right products and right services to offer clients to help them achieve sustainability and eco-friendly systems for generations to come.”

Acknowledging the need to realign capital with sustainability, panelists also called for greater transparency and accountability and urged financial institutions to measure and communicate holistic measures of impact to a wider audience.



Heatwaves Endanger Workers And Reduce Productivity: ILO

Sharply rising temperatures across the globe continue to endanger the safety of workers and impact communities with the “least capacity for adaptation,” according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Data from the UN’s World Meteorological Organization revealed that July 2023 was the hottest month ever recorded.

CLIMATE CHANGE



Heatwaves not only threaten the environment but create additional obstacles for countries attempting to achieve sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all, the targets of SDG 8, according to the ILO’s Nicolas Maître.

Nicolas Maître said: “The estimates show that work productivity slows down at temperatures above 24-26 degrees Celsius. At 33-34°C, worker performance can drop up to 50 per cent in physically demanding jobs, even in shade and inside factories, if there is no air conditioning or employees are expected to operate heavy machinery or wear protective clothing. Broadly speaking, agriculture and construction are the most affected sectors. The ILO estimates that globally, productivity declines due to the impacts of climate change, with agriculture accounting for 60 per cent of this loss.

“Increasing the number of breaks, improving access to water, adapting working hours, and rotating workers are all effective heat-reducing measures. Adapting the clothing of workers, drinking regularly, and having routine self-health checks are also beneficial.”

Maître added evidence suggests that this is a real problem for temperate countries. Yet, differences occur as in Southeast Asia, for instance, the problem is present year-round while in Europe, it’s mainly during summer heat waves.

“The role of the government in establishing adaptation measures is very important. Governments can also create a regulatory framework within the countries to tackle the issue of heat stress. It might be expensive, but the loss of productivity is also expensive.”

Sheikh Hamdan Launches First Phase Of AED4 Billion Waste-To- Energy Centre

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, launched the first phase of the Waste to Energy Centre in Warsan, the world's largest and most efficient waste-to-energy plant.

Featuring advanced technologies that do not have any adverse environmental impact, the



Built on an area of 400,000 square metres, the Centre has five production lines that have the capacity to treat 5,666 tonnes of waste per day

facility was built at a cost of AED4 billion.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed said Dubai continues to accelerate its transition to a green economy by building a world-class clean energy infrastructure, guided by the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The emirate has also steadily expanded its capacity to produce energy from renewable sources.

“The start of the operations of the Waste to Energy Centre in Warsan takes Dubai another step closer to achieving its strategy to create the world's best sustainable ecosystem. We are committed to building a better future for future generations by ensuring our ambitious economic development programmes maintain the highest standards of sustainability and environmental

*When its two phases are completed,
the project will generate 220 MWh
of power*



preservation,” said His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed.

His Highness watched the Centre’s first waste-to-energy conversion operations, which leave no environmental footprint. Two of the plant’s five lines are in operation, which currently processes about 2,300 tonnes of solid waste daily. The sophisticated process employs steam pressure to create rotational energy that powers the generator to produce electricity. At present, the facility generates about 80 MWh of renewable energy.

With the opening of its second phase, the facility’s output is set to expand to 220 MWh, which translates to 5,280 MWh daily.

Sheikh Hamdan was received at the Waste-to-Energy Centre in Warsan by Mattar Al Tayer,

Commissioner-General of the Infrastructure, Urban Planning and Wellbeing Pillar, and Dawood Al Hajri, Director General of Dubai Municipality.

His Highness was briefed about the Centre, the largest facility of its kind in the world in terms of operational capacity. HH also toured the facility that has the capacity to treat around 2 million tonnes of solid waste annually to generate power that can meet the needs of more than 135,000 housing units.

Built on an area of 400,000 square metres, the Centre has five production lines that have the capacity to treat 5,666 tonnes of waste per day.

The Dubai Waste-to-Energy Centre will make significant contributions to Dubai’s efforts to enhance environmental sustainability and mitigate climate change by reducing 2,400 tonnes



of carbon emissions annually by diverting waste from landfills. It will also help raise the share of clean energy sources in Dubai’s energy mix. The facility converts daily waste equivalent to that generated by 3 million people into energy and uses recycled water to produce the steam required to power the centre’s electricity-generating turbine.

By creating a solid base for a smart, sustainable, and environmentally friendly waste collection, management and treatment system, the new Waste to Energy Centre supports the objectives of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to derive 75% of Dubai’s energy needs from clean sources by 2050 and transform the city into a global clean energy and green economy hub.

The new facility also contributes to achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals by

minimising the volume of solid waste directed to landfills, cultivating alternative sources of clean energy, and upgrading the waste management system in Dubai.

The Centre also seeks to achieve the objectives of the Dubai Master Waste Management Plan 2021-2041 aimed at applying global best practices in integrated waste management, providing a safe work environment to encourage promising investments, creating new competitive opportunities in waste management in Dubai, and undertaking long-term projects that offer practical solutions to environmental challenges in line with Dubai’s sustainable economic development agenda.

The Centre also supports the Circular Economy Policy 2021-2031, a comprehensive roadmap for realising the leadership’s vision to transform

The facility is located in Warsan and is the largest and most efficient in the world



Dubai into a global model for circular economy practices through the sustainable management and effective use of natural resources and the adoption of eco-friendly consumption and production techniques and technologies.

Further, the new Centre seeks to enhance the efficiency of natural resource consumption, reduce waste and environmental stress and raise environmental wellbeing.

The Waste-to-Energy Centre in Warsan was built in partnership with a consortium of five local and international private sector companies, which include Dubai Holding, Dubal Holding, Itoshu, Hitachi Zosen Innova, and Besix Group.

The Centre employs the latest Japanese and Swiss technologies in waste management and waste-to-energy processes. All emissions are

thoroughly treated using a textile filter made up of 12,480 cylindrical filter bags. The Centre also implements measures to eliminate any odours resulting from waste management.

When its two phases are completed, the project will generate 220 MWh of power. Out of this, 35 MWh will be used to run the Warsan Wastewater Treatment Plant, and 20 MWh will be directed to power the Waste to Energy Centre. The project will also use 2,760 cubic metres of recycled water from the Warsan Wastewater Treatment Plant, enhancing the sustainability of the project and raising the efficiency of resource utilisation.

The Centre has the capacity to accommodate around 133 waste trucks per hour, which can deliver their loads through 27 gates in less than 15 minutes.

19th Liwa Date Festival Welcomes 34,000 Visitors

Having welcomed 34,000 visitors this year, the 19th edition of the Liwa Date Festival concluded on July 30, 2023, at Liwa City in Al Dhafra Region.

Held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, the festival was organised by the Cultural



The 19th edition of the Liwa Date Festival was held from July 17-30, 2023, at Liwa City in Al Dhafra Region

Programs and Heritage Festivals Committee.

The festival, which is aimed at connecting producers, businesses, and investors, included 23 main competitions with 293 prizes worth a total of AED8.3 million, to highlight, promote, and reward the best of the best in the industry, as well as a variety of pavilions and stalls.

The festival celebrates the historic and cultural importance of palm trees to the UAE. It also supports palm and fruit farmers and local agricultural products, promotes sustainable agricultural development and food security, boosts the economy of the Al Dhafra Region, educates farmers on modern farming methods and farm management, and motivates them to improve the quality of their products.

The festival coincides with the date harvest

Prizes worth a total of AED8.3 million were handed out to winners in over 20 main competitions



season in the UAE and featured activities such as date auctions, fruits, model farms, palm fronds and traditional models.

The Liwa Date Festival market encompassing 165 shops and pavilions featured products by productive families and national institutions, as well as food carts and mobile cafes.

H.H. Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, visited the pavilions of participating entities and reviewed the latest innovations in cultivating palm trees and manufacturing food products.

His Highness also met with members of the committee tasked with adjudicating the various competitions and was briefed on the conditions for eligibility to the competitions.

His Highness also spoke with several exhibitors from local and international companies and discussed the significant role that the festival plays in promoting the UAE's cultural heritage.

Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, toured the event, exploring farmers' entries in the date and fruit competitions. He also met with the festival's jury and was briefed by Obaid Khalfan Al Mazrouei, Director of the Planning and Projects Department, about the festival's activities.

He then visited the pavilions of official and private entities and explored the agricultural products they are showcasing at the event, as well as modern agricultural technologies, most notably related to date palm cultivation.

July 2023 Becomes The Hottest Month On Record: C3S

According to ERA5 data from the EU-funded Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), the first three weeks of July have been the warmest three-week period on record and the month has been announced as the hottest July and the hottest month ever, upping the record by potentially 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit.

These temperatures have been related to



Exceptional temperatures, mainly caused by greenhouse gas emissions, have led to heat waves and fires in large parts of the northern hemisphere throughout July

heatwaves in large parts of North America, Asia and Europe, which along with wildfires in countries including Canada and Greece, have had major impacts on people's health, the environment and economies.

Speaking during the last week of July, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, "We don't have to wait for the end of the month to know this. Short of a mini-Ice Age over the next days, July 2023 will shatter records across the board. July has already seen the hottest three-week period ever recorded; the three hottest days on record; and the highest-ever ocean temperatures for this time of year."

"For vast parts of North America, Asia, Africa and Europe - it is a cruel summer. For the entire planet, it is a disaster. And for scientists, it is unequivocal - humans are to blame. All this is

The world's warmest day occurred on July 6, and the hottest 23 days ever recorded were all during this month



entirely consistent with predictions and repeated warnings. The only surprise is the speed of the change," said Guterres.

On July 6, the daily average global mean surface air temperature surpassed the record set in August 2016, making it the hottest day on record, with July 5 and July 7 shortly behind.

Since May, the global average sea surface temperature has been well above previously observed values for the time of the year; contributing to the exceptionally warm July. According to ERA5 data the previous hottest month on record was July 2019. Complete ERA5 data for July will be published on August 8.

Carlo Buontempo, Director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) at ECMWF, comments: "Record-breaking temperatures are part of the trend of drastic increases in global

temperatures. Anthropogenic emissions are ultimately the main driver of these rising temperatures. Our seasonal forecasts indicate that over land areas temperatures are likely to be well above average, exceeding the 80th percentile of climatology for the time of year".

"This extreme weather is unfortunately the harsh reality of climate change and a foretaste of the future," said World Meteorological Organization's Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas. "The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is more urgent than ever before. Climate action is not a luxury but a must."

WMO predicts that there is a 98% likelihood that at least one of the next five years will be the warmest on record and a 66% chance of temporarily exceeding 1.5°C above the 1850-1900 average for at least one of the five years.

G20 Countries Urged To Lead The Way On Climate Action

With less than four months left before COP28 UAE, COP President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber urged G20 nations to take a leadership role on climate action and said that their decisions will have an enormous influence on the outcomes for all countries.

In a speech at the G20 Climate Sustainability Ministerial Meeting in Chennai, India, Dr. Al Jaber



COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber says leading countries must stand together to halt damage to planet

expressed his concern that his call at the July meeting in Goa to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 has “yet to find expression in G20 outcomes,” despite its importance to the goal of keeping 1.5C within reach.

“As a group, the G20 represents 85 per cent of the world’s GDP and 80 per cent of the world’s emissions. What you decide will have a huge influence on outcomes for everyone, everywhere,” Dr. Al Jaber told ministers. “There is still time for the G20 to show leadership, and I am calling on all of you to work with your leaders to drive global climate action in this critical decade.

“Yesterday we issued a joint statement with UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, calling on the G20 to show leadership in closing the gaps across all of the pillars of the Paris Agreement and help the world get on track to

The G20 represents 85 per cent of the world's GDP and 80 per cent of the world's emissions



keep 1.5C within reach,” he added. Dr. Al Jaber also called on all parties to show solidarity and demonstrate commitment to the UN Secretary General’s Climate Solidarity Pact and Acceleration Agenda.

“I made the case for all parties to get behind a rapid scale up of renewable energy, while we comprehensively decarbonise the current energy system and build towards a system free of all unabated fossil fuels,” added Dr. Al Jaber.

The President-Designate also highlighted the importance of making progress on adaptation, with parties having signed up to the Global Goal on Adaptation under the Paris Agreement.

“We all signed up to this. We are all responsible for its success,” he said. “Yet today, the science and our senses are telling us that the world is

more vulnerable, less resilient and lacks the critical capacity to deal with mounting climate impacts.”

Dr. Al Jaber added, “Right now, many of the indicators are going in the wrong direction. Temperature records continue to be broken, with July officially recorded as the hottest in history. We are losing biodiversity. Agricultural land is being degraded. And food insecurity is increasing.”

The COP28 Presidency is urging nations to accelerate the implementation of ‘30x30’ - the target to conserve 30 percent of terrestrial and marine habitat by the end of this decade - and is also calling for expansion of the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership, Dr. Al Jaber said.

“If we are going to make progress on adaptation, we first have to define what success looks like in



terms of stopping biodiversity loss, restoring agricultural land, preserving forests, protecting coastlines, ensuring no-one goes hungry and safeguarding lives and livelihoods everywhere,” he said.

Transformation of food systems is also a top priority for the COP28 Presidency, he told ministers. “Your national adaptation plans and strategies should promote sustainable land use, leverage technologies to increase crop resilience, enhance nutrition and reduce the climate impacts of farming.”

COP28 will be the first edition of the conference to explicitly link climate impacts to global health, with a day dedicated to health issues, and the first-ever climate health ministerial in partnership with the World Health Organisation. The President-Designate invited all G20 nations to

partner on this to ensure the resilience of global health systems.

The President-Designate reiterated the need to “move the needle on adaptation finance” which is only around 10 percent of that allocated for mitigation.

“Doubling adaptation finance by 2025 is a critical first step but we need to look at directing a solid proportion of all climate finance toward adaptation responses,” he said. “The more that is invested in adaptation, the greater our collective resilience to climate impacts will be.”

Dr. Al Jaber added, “Yet we must acknowledge that many vulnerable countries- in particular small island developing states and least developed countries- are already experiencing consequences of climate change that go beyond

Dr. Al Jaber held strategic bilateral meetings with key environmental and climate ministers to build consensus on the road to COP28



what people can adapt to.”

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Al Jaber said, “Every day we are seeing the human impacts of extreme climate events devastating the lives of ordinary people around the world. Let us reflect on that as human beings and remember once again why solidarity is so important. I urge you to bring that spirit of solidarity to COP28.”

During his visit, Dr. Al Jaber also held strategic bilateral meetings with key environmental and climate ministers to build consensus on the road to COP28.

He also met with Akihiro Nishimura, Minister of the Environment of Japan; Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil; John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate of the United States; Jennifer Morgan, Special

Representative for International Climate Policy of Germany; Bhupender Yadav, Union Cabinet Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India.

Dr. Sultan's visit to Chennai and the G20 closely follows his meetings in Bangladesh earlier in July, where he met with Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and other global leaders to share his core action agenda.



UAE Advocates Climate Action For Food Systems And Agriculture

At the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, participated in a series of plenaries and events that advocated a holistic change in global food systems.

The summit, hosted in Rome, saw world leaders, policymakers, and thinkers unite to drive



In the Year of Sustainability and the build-up to hosting COP28, the UAE has doubled its commitments to transform food systems: H.E Mariam Almheiri

collective climate action. In the first session of the day, Almheiri co-hosted a session with the World Food Program (WFP), which addressed members of the School Meals Coalition. In this session, she explained how climate change and food security are interlinked. She also touched on enhancing efforts to support societies in facing the effects of climate change.

Almheiri also explained how, in the UAE's Year of Sustainability 2023 and the build-up to hosting COP28, the country is doubling down on its commitments to transform food systems. Regarding school meals, the UAE is diversifying menus with local produce, weaving climate education into the curriculum, embracing clean energy, and vastly reducing food waste.

During the session, Almheiri heralded the progress made in school meal provisions as a

At the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, Mariam Almheiri called for a holistic change in global food systems



cause for hope. She highlighted how school meals can act as transformative levers for achieving food systems transformation and climate action. She also discussed the importance of the latest white paper from the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition, which states that a two-fold policy approach is required for immediate and intermediate improvements to school meals.

Almheiri said, “Today, in the face of global issues such as food security and climate change, we find optimism in the increasing consensus that school meal programmes can serve as powerful tools for achieving transformation in our food systems and taking action against climate change.

“As we celebrate the Year of Sustainability 2023 in the UAE and move closer to hosting the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28), our nation

reaffirms our dedication to addressing the systemic issues in food and education systems, all within the broader framework of proactive climate action. The COP28 Presidency aims to ignite a significant shift, positioning food systems transformation at the heart of the agenda. This will pave a dynamic path anchored in national leadership, active involvement of non-state actors, acceleration of innovation, and prioritisation of funding.”

On the second day of the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, Almheiri also attended a plenary session that explored the successes, challenges and the way forward in food system transformation.

This plenary provided an opportunity for the minister to speak about the many successes that the UAE has seen through investing in organic



farming, vertical farming, AI solutions, robotics, and hydroponics. She highlighted key UAE-based projects, including the world’s largest vertical farm “Bustanica”, created in a joint venture between Emirates Flight Catering and US-based Crop One, and Food Tech Valley in Dubai.

Alongside sharing home-grown success stories, in this session, Almheiri explored some of the challenges governments face as they seek to overhaul and build resilience into food systems.

She acknowledged that governments have historically found raising the significant investment needed to future-proof food systems and production methods challenging. She called for the global community to find new ways to incentivise the switch to sustainable practices and pointed to this as a way to accelerate action in the private sector.

The last session of the day was a leadership dialogue, which focused on science, technology, and innovation. In this roundtable discussion, Almheiri spoke about how the UAE is championing global agricultural innovation and research through the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate), which the nation leads in collaboration with the U.S. and other partners.

Almheiri said, “AIM for Climate targets a sector that has often been neglected in climate action discussions. By investing in innovation and technology within the agricultural sector, we can unveil opportunities for effective climate change mitigation and adaptation, cater to the food needs of expanding populations in resource-strained regions, and stimulate economic growth.”

“The initiative has seen substantial growth, with investments soaring from USD8 billion last

“Meal programmes serve as powerful tools for achieving transformation in our food systems and taking action against climate change”



November to USD13 billion in May this year. The UAE takes pride in leading this trailblazing initiative in cooperation with the United States of America and all participating countries, which promotes the adoption of clean and renewable energy, reduces carbon emissions, and aids the transition towards sustainable food systems,” she added.

During the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, Almheiri announced the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda on the first day of the summit and called on governments worldwide to sign a Leaders Declaration on Food Systems, Agriculture, and Climate Action.

Efforts to support this agenda will help end global hunger, meet the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, and keep 1.5°C within reach.

The Declaration invites national governments to align their national food systems and agriculture strategies with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). It will also celebrate countries leading the way by putting food systems and agriculture at the heart of the climate process.



DET Announces Dubai Sustainable Tourism Stamp

Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) has announced the launch of the 'Dubai Sustainable Tourism Stamp', a new sustainability initiative that seeks to recognise hotels with the highest adherence to DET's 19 'Sustainability Requirements'.

The initiative, launched in line with the UAE Year of Sustainability, is part of DET's commitment to

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SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



The Department of Economy and Tourism's newly launched Dubai Sustainable Tourism Stamp will showcase a hotel's adherence to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship

strengthening Dubai's position as a leading sustainable tourism destination.

Developed in collaboration with Dubai's hospitality sector, the new stamp is designed to accelerate efforts towards empowering the tourism sector to achieve its sustainability goals and support the UAE's NetZero 2050 initiative.

The Dubai Sustainable Tourism Stamp will serve as a validation of the hotel's dedication to sustainability and showcase its sustainable practices. To obtain the stamp, hotels of all classifications must meet the highest standards of DET's 19 Sustainability requirements, which include criteria such as energy and water efficiency, waste management programmes, and staff education and engagement initiatives.

The accreditation process will be overseen by a

The Dubai Sustainable Tourism Stamp will serve as a validation of a hotel's dedication to sustainability and showcase its sustainable practices



committee of senior industry professionals to ensure integrity and independence, with the initiative designed based on global best practices.

The stamp will feature a three-tier scheme with categories ranging from Gold, Silver and Bronze. Nominations for hotel establishments to obtain the Dubai Sustainable Tourism Stamp will begin on 3 August, 2023 and end on 31 August, 2023.

Yousuf Lootah, Acting CEO of Corporate Strategy and Performance sector, Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism, stated: "The new Stamp champions sustainable practices while setting a benchmark for excellence in environmental stewardship, aligned with the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda 2033. We have carefully curated a set of high standard criteria that will reward hotels that go above and beyond in their sustainable practices."

He added: "By supporting businesses and encouraging them to adopt eco-friendly practices and reducing their carbon footprint, we are not only safeguarding the environment but also promoting sustainable growth.

As Dubai prepares to host COP28 later this year, the launch of the Dubai Sustainable Tourism Stamp also demonstrates the tourism industry's foresight and determination to foster an eco-friendly sector that is both economically prosperous and environmentally responsible."

DET's sustainability strategy has paved the way for innovative initiatives including the Carbon Calculator, a mechanism to help stakeholders and partners identify cost saving opportunities and manage the transition to sustainable practices, in line with the 'Sustainability Requirements'.

Arab Children's Parliament Unites For Climate Action

The second session of the third Arab Children's Parliament, hosted by the Arab League, saw 52 Arab children from 15 countries come together under the parliamentary dome. The session's crucial theme was "Arab Children: Sustainable Efforts for Climate", rallying for collective action in building an Arab framework responsive to current and future climate challenges.



Event highlights collaboration to empower children's involvement in decision-making

The young participants' contributions at the gathering, held at the Sharjah Consultative Council headquarters, showcased their potential as the upcoming generation to lead climate-focused initiatives and actively engage in finding innovative solutions.

Noteworthy discussions highlighted the significance of Arab and international collaboration to empower children's involvement in decision-making processes, driving meaningful and sustainable transformations. Essential topics encompassed climate awareness, the role of educational curricula and families, as well as traditional and modern media in equipping future generations with knowledge and skills for climate resilience and progress.

The children conveyed their determination to promote sustainability and purposeful climate

The Arab Children's Parliament showcases the upcoming generation's potential to lead climate-focused initiatives



actions among their peers, proposing the establishment of online platforms and local/international dialogue sessions. These initiatives aim to foster comprehensive climate discussions, raise awareness about challenges, and foster interactive workshops to develop inventive and sustainable solutions, benefiting society in areas like fuel consumption, eco-friendly technologies, and emission reduction.

The session witnessed the presence of Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of the Environment and Protected Areas Authority, Ahmed Saeed Al Jarwan, Secretary-General of the Sharjah Consultative Council (SCC), and Dr. Abdulrahman Al Yasi, Director-General of Sharjah Youth, associated with the Rubu' Qarn Foundation, along with Dr. Abdulmalik Dabbash, Consultant at the Family and Childhood Department of the Arab League.

Expressing his gratitude to the Ruler of Sharjah, Ayman Othman Al Barout, Secretary-General of the Arab Parliament, said, "Parliament members engage in discussing various important topics, guided by global goals and sustainability principles within an ambitious plan. Among these topics, is 'Arab Children: Sustainable Efforts for Climate', which emphasises the importance of preserving environmental balance and peaceful coexistence on Earth."

During the discussions, contributions from members and delegates highlighted the significance of addressing climate change due to its social and economic impacts, affecting families and communities in the Arab world. They stressed the need to achieve sustainable economic and social development while facing the challenges posed by climate change.

COP28 President Urges All Nations To Join Global Cooling Pledge

Speaking on the sidelines of the 14th Clean Energy Ministerial, alongside the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting, Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, and COP28 President-Designate urged countries to join the global cooling pledge, a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the COP28 Presidency.



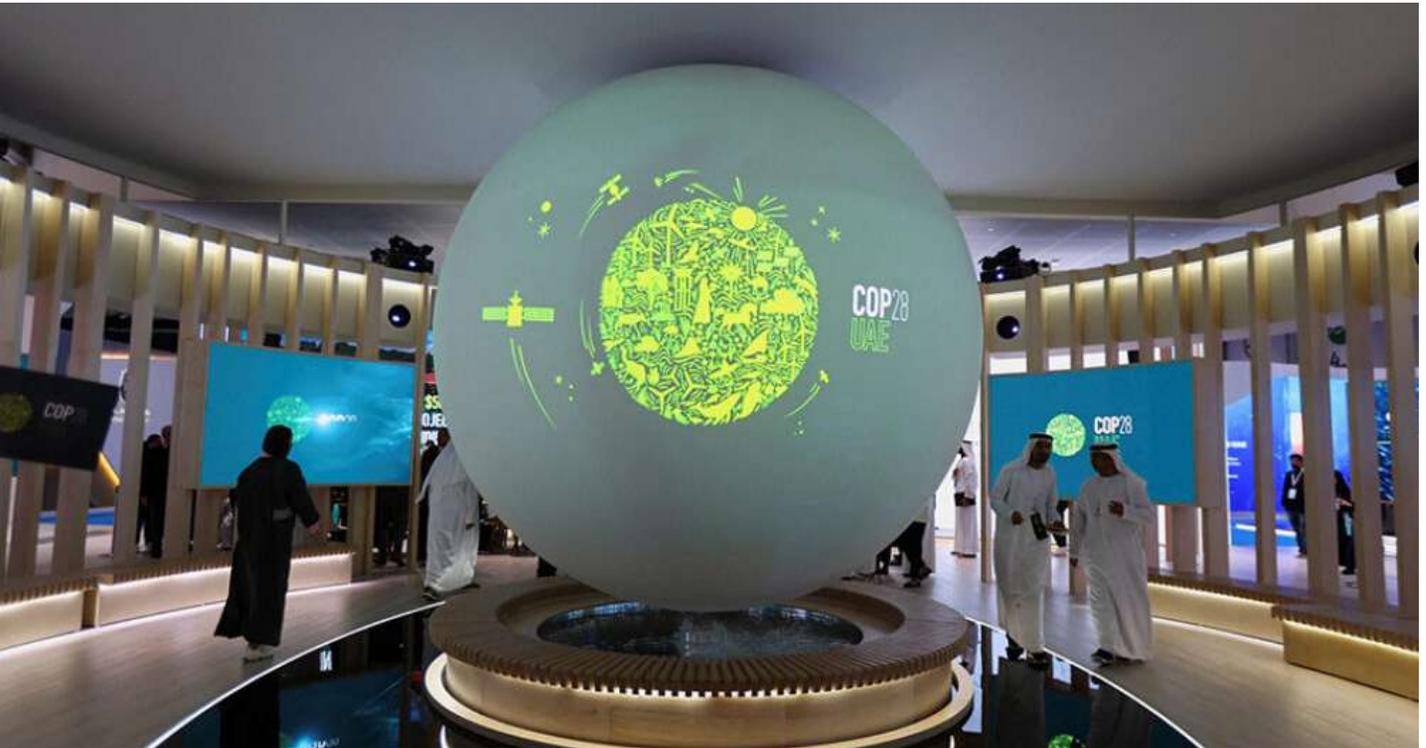
The Global Cooling Pledge advocates for sustainable cooling measures across five key areas: nature-based solutions, super-efficient appliances, cold chains for preserving food and vaccines, district cooling, and National Cooling Action Plans

In close collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), the Global Cooling Pledge aims to expand cooling to protect the most vulnerable communities, especially in the global south, Small Island States and Least Developed Countries, from extreme heat, keep food fresh and vaccines safe.

Earlier in July, the COP28 President Designate announced his approach and plan for COP28 based on an ambitious response to the Global Stocktake and based on 4 pillars: Fast Tracking the energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, lives and livelihoods and underpinning everything with full inclusivity.

The initiative provides incentives to governments and all stakeholders to act on sustainable cooling in five areas: nature-based solutions, super-

Al Jaber emphasized the critical importance of sustainable cooling solutions to address climate challenges and protect vulnerable communities



efficient appliances, food and vaccine cold chains, district cooling, and National Cooling Action Plans.

In his remarks, the COP28 President Designate reiterated his commitment to the Pledge, saying “We cannot expand cooling on a business-as-usual basis. Without strong policy action, emissions from the sector will rise between 7 to 10 percent from today. To solve this dilemma, we need a rapid transition to energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling.”

He highlighted that the cooling dilemma can provide cooling access to those who need it without undermining the energy transition.

Al Jaber highlighted the plight of the most vulnerable states and cooling as a matter of climate justice, saying: “Food and medicine all depend on cooling. It is a topic of critical

importance across climate mitigation and adaptation. Cooling is also a matter of climate justice, with heat disproportionately impacting lower-income communities and families.”

“In a warming world, sustainable cooling is critical for reducing GHG emissions, protecting against heat stress, enabling productivity, reducing food loss, and enhancing access to healthcare.”

He concluded: “We have a unique opportunity to deliver a significant, collective response to the cooling challenge via the Global Cooling Pledge. This pledge aims to improve energy efficiency and increase access to sustainable cooling. It is gaining momentum with more than 20 early supporters. But there is more to be done. I call on all countries to join the Global Cooling Pledge in the lead up to COP28.”

PwC And Dar Take On The Sustainability Challenge In The Middle East Built Environment

With a shared vision to support the Middle East's net zero agenda, PwC and Dar Al-Handasah Consultants (Shair and Partners) - Dar - have announced a strategic collaboration to drive sustainable solutions in the regional built environment.

The partnership will leverage PwC Middle East's advisory expertise across sustainability, finance

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BUILT ENVIRONMENT



With over USD2 trillion worth of construction and infrastructure projects planned and under execution in the Middle East, there is a distinct opportunity for the region to establish itself as a global hub for sustainable solutions

and emerging technology, alongside Dar's global expertise as a leading built-environment and engineering consultancy, to deliver climate-ready development solutions for their clients. Together, the firms will seek to provide solutions that bend the carbon curve in the built environment, enhance the liveability of cities and accelerate economic performance for regional investors, governments and communities.

Commenting on the strategic collaboration, Hani Ashkar, Middle East Senior Partner, PwC Middle East, said: "At PwC, we believe connected and well-functioning buildings are at the heart of any leading cognitive and sustainable city's goals and aspirations. Our partnership with Dar Al-Handasah, who have led numerous award-winning sustainability projects globally across key horizontal and vertical infrastructure, will

The built environment contributes to almost 40% of annual global GHG emissions



tap into their unique expertise to deliver innovative solutions for the most complex engineering and design needs in the region."

The urban built environment contributes to 75% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions, with buildings and conventional construction alone generating nearly 40% of the sector's solid waste. Insights from regional projects tracker MEED Projects shows that more than USD2 trillion worth of construction and infrastructure projects are planned and underway in the Middle East, providing a significant opportunity to instil greater sustainability in the region's built environment.

Dr. Yahya Anouti, Partner and ESG leader, Strategy& Middle East, said: "The new wave of regional investment in the industry over the coming decade represents a once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity to move away from traditional labour-intensive techniques and reimagine the region into an innovation and start-up hub in the field of sustainable construction, with the potential to pioneer new material and construction technologies that empower the region as an export hub.

He added: "The region shows great promise in this field. With countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Egypt announcing net zero related commitments, we strongly believe the Middle East is well-positioned to lead a paradigm shift in the built environment. Yet, given the scale of the spend, decision makers in the region will need to drive a balancing act of five objectives: fast, affordable, sustainable, smart, wellbeing centric, and localised developments."

Anchored to regional specificities, the



partnership will spotlight best practices, overarching governance, future technologies, sustainability and circular economy principles with businesses and governments across the Middle East. It will also cover solutions relating to sustainable construction methods and materials, with a particular focus on future green field developments.

In the lead-up to and during this year's COP28 summit, the collaboration will bring together leading urban planning and smart cities experts through workshops and panels to highlight sustainability opportunities across the infrastructure and real estate industry.

Commenting on the MoU signing, Danny Aoun, Regional Director, Dar, said: "We are on a clear mission; to support the built environment – both buildings and infrastructure – on its path to

decarbonize by 2050 with significant progress being made by 2030. As a signatory to the World Green Building Council's Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, Dar promotes pragmatic sustainability strategies for our built environment, driven towards a zero-carbon future.

"We are committed to working with PwC Middle East to help clients in the region attain net zero operational carbon by 2030 and ensure that all new buildings and major retrofits within direct control attain net zero whole-life carbon by 2030. Our work with PwC will also tackle our industry's major trends that strongly align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals."

Balsam Nehme, Head of Sustainability, Dar, said: "The overall built environment sector demands clear climate and sustainability targets, frameworks, methodologies, and greater alignment. As a leading built environment consultancy, we promote a low whole life carbon approach and net-zero carbon pathways in our work to clients. We also actively collaborate with industry partners to advance thought leadership on sustainable infrastructure and policy activation. We believe that an integrated approach to the whole built environment is essential to deliver change in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement."



MoHAP Workshop Focuses On Climate Change, Health Vulnerability

The Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) has hosted a training workshop on climate change and health vulnerability, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Regional Office and other government agencies in the UAE.

Held in Dubai, the workshop focused on the mechanisms and procedures required to assess

UAE NEWS



the health impacts of air pollution, providing an invaluable learning environment for attendees.

Participants were part of several group exercises, to measure and assess the vulnerability of health to climate change, evaluate current response and adaptation strategies within the health sector, and formulate a Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) in cooperation with the WHO.

As an interactive platform, the workshop allowed participants to deepen their understanding of the health implications of climate change, identify effective adaptation measures, and develop appropriate capacities.

The main themes explored included a review of the latest scientific evidence and the creation of frameworks and methodologies for measuring health's impact on climate change. Additionally, the workshop provided insights on assessing

climate-related risks, identifying priority intervention areas, strengthening the health systems' response capacity, and improving intersectoral cooperation and coordination for effective adaptation to climate change.

Dr. Hussain Abdul Rahman Al Rand, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Public Health Sector, emphasised that the UAE is committed to bolstering international efforts in the field of health vulnerability assessment in the context of climate change and to assess the existing response and adaptation options within the health sector, to develop a comprehensive HNAP.

The workshop encompassed several assessments using the WHO's tools to gauge health vulnerability to climate change and adaptation measures.

COP28 Launches Food Systems And Agriculture Agenda

The COP28 UAE Presidency has launched its Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda. This forms part of its continued work to define the COP28 Action Agenda leading into this year's climate conference.

The COP28 Presidency, represented by Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment and COP28 Food



The first-ever Leaders Declaration on Food Systems, Agriculture and Climate Action calls on governments to put food systems and agriculture at the heart of the climate process

Systems Lead, called on governments to demonstrate leadership by signing the first-ever Leaders Declaration on Food Systems, Agriculture and Climate Action during the Food Systems Summit that concluded recently in Rome, Italy.

The Declaration invites national governments to align their national food systems and agriculture strategies, with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). It will also celebrate countries who are leading the way by putting food systems and agriculture at the heart of the climate process.

The COP28 Presidency will bring together businesses, farmer and producer organisations, and other non-state actors to drive progress

Food systems are responsible for significant global greenhouse gas emissions – representing up to 33 percent of total emissions



across production, consumption, food loss and waste. This partnership will work with over 15 leading CEOs and involve actors across every stage of the agriculture supply chain, from production to consumption and finance.

As part of this collaboration, a flagship initiative was also launched to promote the widespread adoption of regenerative agriculture in large food landscapes underpinned by procurement and investment commitments.

In a joint session on Food Systems and Climate Action at the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment, co-chaired by Almheiri and Antonio Tajani, Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Almheiri highlighted the need to urgently increase the resilience of climate-vulnerable farmers and reduce food system-

related emissions.

The announcement of the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda was made on the first day of the UN Food Systems Summit Stock Take Moment (STM) in Rome and underscores the essential elements required to both upgrade food systems and achieve climate objectives.

Food systems are not only vital for meeting societal needs and enabling adaptation to climate impacts but are also responsible for significant global greenhouse gas emissions – representing up to 33 percent of total emissions according to the latest data. Current practices also contribute to loss of biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, consumption of 70 percent of freshwater, and are associated with negative health impacts.

Rolls-Royce Spectre: A New Expression Of Luxury

The Spectre is the most anticipated Rolls-Royce ever. Free from the restrictions connected to the internal combustion engine, its battery-electric vehicle offers the purest expression of the Rolls-Royce experience in the marque's 118-year history.

According to Dr. Mihir Ayoubi, Director of Engineering, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, "Spectre



Built upon the Architecture of Luxury — a custom platform that enables adaptive engineering and peerless ride quality — the Spectre combines agile performance with the marque's signature magic carpet ride

unlocks the extraordinary potential of integrating a fully electric powertrain into Rolls-Royce's Architecture of Luxury platform. From this engineering starting point, our testing and refinement processes combine empirical data and human experience, intuition and insights acquired over more than a century to refine the motor car's driving dynamics and character.

"In coordinating this orchestra of systems with precisely defined responses to driver inputs and road conditions, made possible by the latest software and hardware developments, Spectre delivers the Rolls-Royce experience in exceptionally high definition."

Spectre represents a promise kept. In 2011, Rolls-Royce showcased a fully electric Experimental Phantom concept named 102EX. This was followed by 103EX, a dramatic design

*The most powerful Rolls-Royce ever,
the Spectre is an emblem of
artisanship in perfect harmony with
electric technology*



study that anticipated a bold electric future for the marque. These experimental cars prompted significant interest from Rolls-Royce clients, who felt that the characteristics of an electric powertrain would fit perfectly with the brand.

Rolls-Royce Chief Executive Officer, Torsten Müller-Ötvös, responded to this with a clear promise: Rolls-Royce will go electric, starting this decade, and by 2030 Rolls-Royce will be a fully electric motor car brand.

In September 2021, Rolls-Royce commenced testing of the first all-electric Rolls-Royce, Spectre. To ensure Spectre is first and foremost a Rolls-Royce, the new electric car underwent the most demanding testing programme ever conceived by the marque, spanning 2.5 million kilometres, simulating on average more than 400 years of use for a Rolls-Royce.

A Bespoke Electronic Architecture

Spectre is unlike any Rolls-Royce before it. This is not only because of its fully electric powertrain, but also its unprecedented computing power and application of advanced data-processing technologies. Spectre is the most connected Rolls-Royce ever and each of its components are more intelligent than in any previous Rolls-Royce. It features 141,200 sender-receiver relations and has more than 1,000 functions and more than 25,000 sub functions. This is around three times more sender-receiver signals than a typical Rolls-Royce.

The dramatically increased intelligence of Spectre's electronic and electric powertrain architecture enables a free and direct exchange of detailed information between these functions with minimal centralised processing. To unlock



the potential of this technology, Rolls-Royce software engineering specialists developed a decentralised intelligence for Spectre. This is based on data being processed closer to its source rather than being handled in its entirety by a single central processing unit.

By sending more sophisticated data packets – that not only describe a variable but propose a response – the motor car’s reaction time is significantly faster and more detailed. This advanced technology sees much of the development of Spectre pivot from the workshop into the digital space.

‘Magic Carpet Ride’ In High Definition

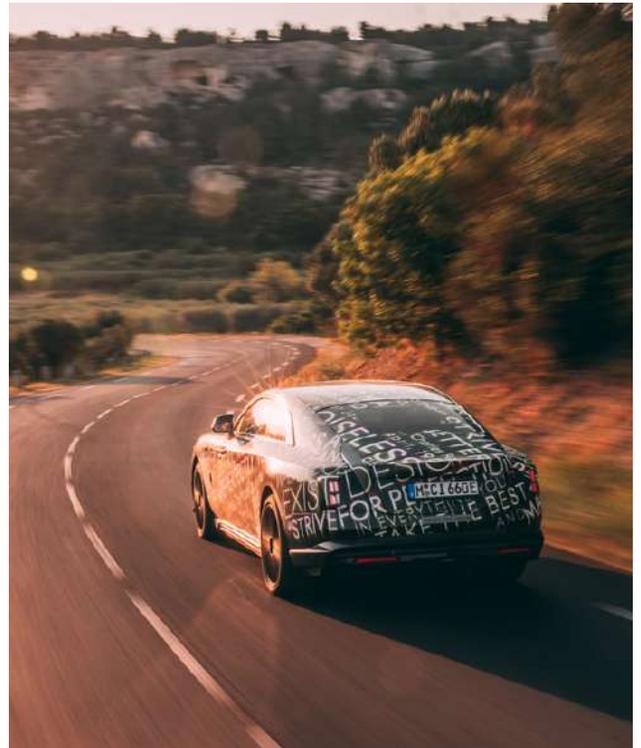
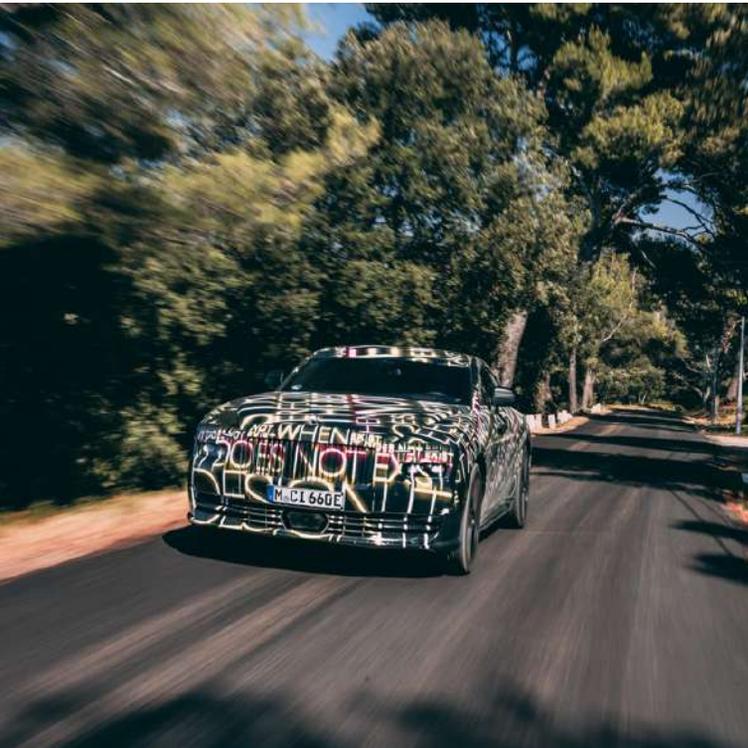
Following months of continual testing, a new suspension technology that was approved ensures that Spectre delivers Rolls-Royce’s hallmark ‘magic carpet ride’. Using a suite of new

hardware components and leveraging Spectre’s high-speed processing capabilities, this sophisticated electronic roll stabilisation system uses data from the motor car’s Flagbearer system, which reads the road surface ahead, and satellite navigation system, which alerts Spectre to upcoming corners.

On straight roads, the system can automatically decouple Spectre’s anti-roll bars, allowing each wheel to act independently. This prevents the rocking motion that occurs when one side of a vehicle hits an undulation in the road. This also dramatically improves high-frequency imperfections in ride caused by smaller, more frequent shortcomings in road surface quality.

Once a corner is confirmed as imminent by satellite navigation data and the Flagbearer system, the components are recoupled, the

*New drag coefficient of 0.25
makes Spectre the most
aerodynamic Rolls-Royce yet*



suspension dampers stiffen and the four-wheel steering system prepares for activation to ensure effortless entry and exit. Under cornering, more than 18 sensors are monitored, and steering, braking, power delivery and suspension parameters are adjusted accordingly so that Spectre remains stable. For the driver, this delivers serenity, predictability and, ultimately, greater control in unprecedented high definition.

Unparalleled Rigidity

The unparalleled control of such a generously proportioned motor car that is provided by this new technology is enabled by the marque's all-aluminium spaceframe architecture. Not only has this platform, which is reserved for the brand's exclusive use, enabled designers to create a new class of Rolls-Royce – the Electric Super Coupé – but it has also provided Spectre with the most rigid body in the marque's history.

Spectre's aluminium architecture is reinforced with steel sections that provide exceptional torsional rigidity. This is combined with aluminium body sections that represent the largest of any Rolls-Royce yet.

The one-piece side panel, which extends from the front of the A-pillar to behind the rear tail-lights, is the largest 'deep draw' part ever produced by Rolls-Royce – extending nearly four metres in length. Likewise, the pillarless coach doors, which are nearly 1.5 metres in length, are the longest in Rolls-Royce history.

Spectre's exceptional rigidity represents a 30% improvement over all existing Rolls-Royce motor cars and has achieved this by integrating the extremely rigid structure of the battery into Spectre's aluminium spaceframe architecture.

The total number of climate change court cases has more than doubled since 2017 and is growing worldwide.

Climate Litigation: A Key Tool In Delivering Climate Justice

These findings, published by the UN Environment Programme and the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University, show that climate litigation is becoming an integral part of securing climate action and justice.

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CLIMATE JUSTICE



Lawsuits challenging government and corporate inaction on the climate breakdown have become an important driver of change, says new UN report

The report, *Global Climate Litigation Report: 2023 Status Review*, is based on a review of cases focused on climate change law, policy or science collected up to 31 December 2022 by the Sabin Center's US and Global Climate Change Litigation Databases and was published a day ahead of the first anniversary of the UN General Assembly's declaration of access to a clean and healthy environment as a universal human right.

"Climate policies are far behind what is needed to keep global temperatures below the 1.5°C threshold, with extreme weather events and searing heat already baking our planet," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. "People are increasingly turning to courts to combat the climate crisis, holding governments and the private sector accountable and making litigation a key mechanism for securing climate action and promoting climate justice."

Of the 2,365 lawsuits relating to the climate crisis around the world, nearly 200 were filed in the past 12 months



The report provides an overview of key climate litigation cases from the past two years, including historic breakthroughs. As climate litigation increases in frequency and volume, the body of legal precedent grows, forming an increasingly well-defined field of law.

The total number of climate change cases has more than doubled since a first report on the issue, from 884 in 2017 to 2,180 in 2022. While most cases have been brought in the US, climate litigation is taking root all over the world, with about 17 per cent of cases now being reported in developing countries, including Small Island Developing States.

These legal actions were brought in 65 bodies worldwide: in international, regional, and national courts, tribunals, quasi-judicial bodies, and other adjudicatory bodies, including special procedures

of the UN and arbitration tribunals.

"There is a distressingly growing gap between the level of greenhouse gas reductions the world needs to achieve in order to meet its temperature targets, and the actions that governments are actually taking to lower emissions. This inevitably will lead more people to resort to the courts. This report will be an invaluable resource for everyone who wants to achieve the best possible outcome in judicial forums, and to understand what is and is not possible there," said Michael Gerrard, Sabin Center's Faculty Director.

The report demonstrates how the voices of vulnerable groups are being heard globally: 34 cases have been brought by and on behalf of children and youth under 25 years old, including by girls as young as seven and nine years of age in Pakistan and India respectively, while in



Switzerland, plaintiffs are making their case based on the disproportionate impact of climate change on senior women.

Notable cases have challenged government decisions based on a project's inconsistency with the goals of the Paris Agreement or a country's net-zero commitments.

Growing awareness of climate change in recent years has also spurred action against corporations - these include cases seeking to hold fossil fuel companies and other greenhouse gas emitters responsible for climate harm.

According to the report, most ongoing climate litigation falls into one or more of six categories: 1) cases relying on human rights enshrined in international law and national constitutions; 2) challenges to domestic non-enforcement of

climate-related laws and policies; 3) litigants seeking to keep fossil fuels in the ground; 4) advocates for greater climate disclosures and an end to greenwashing; 5) claims addressing corporate liability and responsibility for climate harms; and 6) claims addressing failures to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The report demonstrates how courts are finding strong human rights linkages to climate change. This is leading to greater protections for the most vulnerable groups in society, as well as increased accountability, transparency and justice, compelling governments and corporations to pursue more ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

In the future, the report predicts a rise in the number of cases dealing with climate migration, cases brought by Indigenous peoples, local

The UN anticipates a growing number of lawsuits before and after extreme weather disasters



communities and other groups disproportionately affected by climate change, and cases addressing liability following extreme weather events. The report also anticipates challenges in applying the science of climate attribution as well as a rise in “backlash” cases against litigants which aim to dismantle regulations that promote climate action.

Key climate litigation cases and matters covered in the report include:

- The UN Human Rights Committee concluding for the first time that a country has violated international human rights law through climate policy and climate inaction, finding Australia’s government is in violation of its human rights obligations to Torres Strait Islanders;
- Brazil’s Supreme Court holding that the Paris Agreement is a human rights treaty, which enjoys “supranational” status;
- A Dutch court ordering oil and gas company Shell to comply with the Paris Agreement and reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent from 2019 levels by 2030;
- Germany’s court striking down parts of the Federal Climate Protection Act as incompatible with the rights to life and health;
- A court in Paris holding that France’s climate inaction and failure to meet its carbon budget goals have caused climate-related ecological damages;
- A UK court finding that the government had failed to comply with its legal duties under its Climate Change Act 2008 when approving its net-zero strategy.

UNCTAD Calls For Urgent Investments In Clean Energy In Developing Countries

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has called for urgent support to developing countries to enable them to attract significantly more investment for their transition to clean energy.

UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2023 published in July shows that much of the growth in international investment in renewable energy,



Developing countries need renewable energy investments of about USD1.7 trillion annually but attracted FDI in clean energy worth only USD544 billion in 2022, says new UN report

which has nearly tripled since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, has been concentrated in developed countries.

Developing countries need renewable energy investments of about USD1.7 trillion annually but attracted foreign direct investment in clean energy worth only USD544 billion in 2022.

Total funding needs for the energy transition in developing countries are much larger and include investment in power grids, transmission lines, storage and energy efficiency.

Compact for sustainable energy investment

The report proposes a compact setting out priority actions ranging from financing mechanisms to investment policies to enable developing countries to attract investments to

Investment gap across all sectors of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has increased to more than USD4 trillion per year



build sustainable energy systems. On financing, the report calls for the de-risking of energy transition investment in developing countries through loans, guarantees, insurance instruments and equity participation of both the public sector – through public private partnerships and blended finance – and multilateral development banks.

Also, partnerships between international investors, the public sector and multilateral financial institutions can significantly reduce the cost of capital for clean energy investments.

Renewable energy investment growth slows

The report shows that the growth of investment in renewable energy slowed down in 2022, as international project finance deals declined. Although total international investment in renewables has nearly tripled since 2015, in

developing countries the growth rate has exceeded GDP growth only marginally.

A key concern is that private (non-listed) buyers, who include mostly private equity funds, often have lower or no emission-reduction goals and weaker climate reporting standards. This calls for a new model of climate-aligned dealmaking. The report also says the investment gap across all sectors of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has increased to more than USD4 trillion per year from USD2.5 trillion in 2015.

The largest gaps are in energy, water and transport infrastructure. The increase is the result of both underinvestment and additional needs, especially in developing countries.

The growing SDG investment gap in developing countries contrasts with positive sustainability



trends in global capital markets. The value of the sustainable finance market reached USD5.8 trillion in 2022.

Global investment flows fall due to overlapping crises

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) declined by 12 percent in 2022, to USD1.3 trillion, after a strong rebound in 2021 following the steep drop induced by COVID-19 in 2020, the report shows.

The decline was mainly a result of lower volumes of financial flows and transactions in developed countries. The slowdown was driven by overlapping crises: the war in Ukraine, high food and energy prices and debt pressures.

The fall in FDI flows was mostly caused by financial transactions of multinational enterprises in developed economies.

Regional investment trends

FDI flows to developed economies declined and developing countries accounted for two thirds of global FDI in 2022, with Latin America and the Caribbean experiencing a significant increase. FDI inflows in least developed countries fell by 16 percent.

The FDI increase in developing countries was unevenly shared and growth was concentrated in a few large emerging economies. FDI inflows in developing countries in Asia remained flat but still accounted for more than half of global FDI.

Flows to Latin America and the Caribbean increased by 51 percent, reaching USD208 billion, the highest level ever recorded while FDI flows to structurally weak and vulnerable economies declined.

UN Secretary-General Urges Global Action To End Hunger

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has highlighted the need to address global hunger, promote cooperation between businesses and governments, and mitigate the damaging impact of continuing climate change on food production.

Addressing the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in Rome, Guterres said

FOOD SECURITY



that in a world of plenty, "it is outrageous that people continue to suffer and die from hunger."

"Global food systems are broken - and billions of people are paying the price," he noted.

According to UN estimates, over 780 million people experience hunger, almost one-third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted and nearly three billion people cannot afford healthy diets. In his address, the UN chief cited three key areas for action, starting with a "massive" investment in sustainable food systems.

"Starving food systems of investment means, quite literally, starving people," he said, calling on governments to respond to the UN's call for an SDG Stimulus, amounting to at least USD500 billion annually to support long-term financing for all countries in need, and to collaborate and "put people over profit" in building food systems.

This involves exploring new ways to increase the availability of fresh, healthy food for all individuals, keeping food markets open, and removing trade barriers and export restrictions, he said.

With food systems playing a key role in reducing carbon emissions and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the Secretary-General called for food systems that reduce the carbon footprint of food processing, packaging, and transportation.

From 24 to 26 July, the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment convened over 2,000 participants from over 160 countries to review progress on the commitments made at the first Food Systems Summit in 2021, and identify successes, as well as continuing bottlenecks while refocusing priorities.

Wellington, New Zealand: Vibrant, Energetic, Eco-friendly

Wellington, New Zealand's capital city, stands tall as a shining example of a green city, exemplifying sustainable practices and innovative initiatives that set it apart from many urban centers around the world.

With a deep-rooted commitment to preserving its natural beauty, Wellington has earned its reputation as a global leader in sustainability.



A focus on preservation of nature, smart-growth, and walkability have made Wellington's ecological footprint among the lowest in New Zealand

Having enshrined the country's commitment to the Paris Agreement in law in late 2019, New Zealand is well on the way to achieving zero net carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

With the lowest emissions per capita of any Australasian city, Wellington scores a pollution index of 13.66, meaning for every 100 air particles, only 13.66 are polluted.

A relatively sparse population and a focus on industries such as horticulture, agriculture, fishing, and tourism, are among the chief reasons for its low emissions.

From embracing renewable energy to promoting eco-friendly transportation and fostering community involvement, this vibrant city is also a living testament to the power of collective action in creating a greener, resilient future.

With the lowest emissions per capita of any Australasian city, Wellington is at the forefront of the green movement



Public Transportation and Active Mobility

Wellington's efficient and sustainable public transportation system is the backbone of its green initiatives. The Metlink network, comprising buses, trains, and ferries, facilitates convenient and eco-friendly commuting for residents and visitors alike. The city's comprehensive cycling infrastructure encourages active mobility, reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions.

Wellington is known for being a pedestrian-friendly city, with wide footpaths and beautiful waterfront walkways that encourage people to explore the city on foot. The city also boasts the very first fully electric high performance passenger ferry in the southern hemisphere, and is home to the sustainable, stylish and modern electric e-motorbike, Streetdog.

Preserving Green Spaces and Biodiversity

In the heart of Wellington lies the stunning

Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Emissions

At the forefront of Wellington's green initiatives is its commitment to renewable energy sources. The city has made significant strides in reducing carbon emissions and embracing cleaner alternatives to fossil fuels. Wellington's electricity generation is primarily sourced from renewable energy, predominantly hydroelectric and wind power, with ambitious plans to increase solar energy adoption.

The region's unique geography provides a favorable environment for wind power generation, and the city boasts an array of wind turbines dotting the skyline. The iconic Brooklyn Wind Turbine, perched on the hills above the city, symbolizes Wellington's dedication to harnessing the power of nature sustainably.





Wellington Botanic Garden, a lush oasis that showcases the city's dedication to preserving green spaces and biodiversity. The garden is a haven for native and exotic plants, providing a serene escape for residents and tourists while contributing to biodiversity conservation efforts.

It intends to be the best place to live by becoming a Biophilic City - one that preserves natural capital by incorporating it into all areas of land use, open space management, and urban design.

An example is the first fully-fenced eco-sanctuary in the world, Zealandia.

The city's commitment to preserving natural habitats extends beyond the urban landscape. Wellington is surrounded by diverse ecosystems, including marine reserves and protected forests, where conservation efforts are actively supported by the community and local authorities.

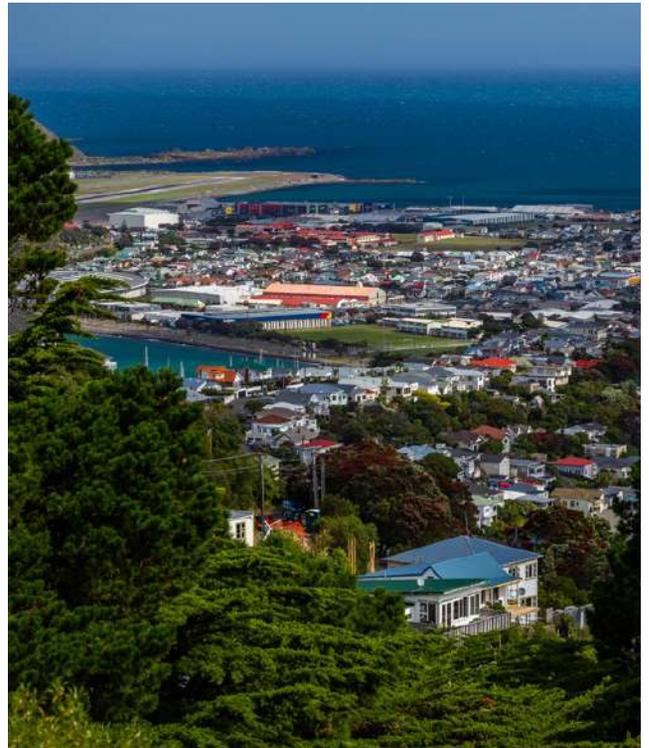
Waste Reduction and Recycling

Wellington embraces a circular economy approach to waste management, aiming to minimize waste sent to landfills. The city encourages recycling and composting through well-established waste collection systems and community education programs. Furthermore, initiatives such as "zero waste" events and plastic bag bans demonstrate Wellington's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint.

Circular economy

Wellington has adopted circular economy principles in its design of smart city infrastructure, allowing countless components to be reused, remanufactured, and replaced in ways that support continued improvement. These infrastructures are also complementing projects that help conserve the environment.

Wellington is one of the only cities on the planet where the natural environment is recovering



Climate Resilience and Preparedness

Being a coastal city, Wellington recognizes the significance of climate resilience and preparedness. The city actively addresses the challenges of rising sea levels and extreme weather events, integrating climate change considerations into urban planning and infrastructure development.

By collaborating with experts, academia, and the public, Wellington is better prepared to face the challenges posed by climate change and is actively building a more resilient future.

Supporting Green Businesses and Innovation

Wellington nurtures a vibrant ecosystem of green businesses and startups, driving innovation in sustainable technologies and practices. The city's

commitment to supporting such ventures has earned it recognition as a hub for environmentally conscious entrepreneurship.

The Wellington Green Business Network brings together businesses committed to sustainability, fostering collaboration, and knowledge-sharing to accelerate the city's green transition. The city is also a leading example of the "smart growth" concept of high-density development for sustainability and higher quality of life.

Wellington, New Zealand, stands as an inspiring model of a green city, thriving on thoughtful planning, innovative initiatives, and community involvement. Nestled amidst breathtaking natural beauty, Wellington's commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action demonstrates that urban centers can thrive while preserving the planet for generations to come.

EU Donates 25 Million Euros To FAO For Wildlife Conservation

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has welcomed 25 million euros in additional funding from the European Union (EU) to extend and scale up the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme.

Since 2017, the initiative has been working with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to



The funds will go towards extending and scaling up the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme

reduce unsustainable wildlife hunting, conserve wildlife, and strengthen people's livelihoods and food security.

The first phase of the initiative received 45 million euros from the EU, with co-funding from the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and French Development Agency (AFD). This second phase will run from August 2023 to May 2029 and will be part of NaturAfrica, the new EU initiative for biodiversity conservation in Africa.

In this new phase, FAO will continue to lead a consortium of partners, which includes the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General,

The use of wild species is central to the lives of people and a vital part of almost every human community



FAO, said: “The initiative contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as to the “four betters” in the new FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031. For example, the Programme is working towards “better nutrition” by promoting safe food across wild and domestic meat value chains, and towards “better environment” by developing innovative approaches to improve practices, build capacities to reduce zoonotic risks and protect ecosystems.”

The partnership is working with national and regional administrations, and over 80 local and indigenous communities, in 16 countries. This new initiative is strengthening innovative and collaborative targeted approaches to conserve wild animals, protect ecosystems, and greatly improve the livelihoods of those who depend on these resources.

“Building scalable new models to conserve wildlife and improve food security takes time,” said Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG-INTPA), European Commission. “We need to further develop the models tested by the SWM Programme and to disseminate and scale up the Programme’s findings, results and approaches to achieve greater impacts.”

The new EU funding will be used to increase the impact and sustainability of the Programme by completing the models and sharing lesson learnt, tools and innovations at national, regional and international levels.

The initiative will continue to work with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and regional organizations in Africa.

'Climate Change Affects Women And Men Differently'

The General Women's Union (GWU), in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Women's Liaison Office for the GCC, recently organised a high-level dialogue session titled "The Gender Dimensions of Climate Change and Gender-Responsive Climate Action".

The event sought to raise awareness about the



General Women's Union organises discussion on 'Gender Dimensions of Climate Change and Gender-Responsive Climate Action'

intersection of gender and climate change, enhancing gender-responsive climate action and examining ways to increase cooperation and partnerships between experts and institutions working on climate and gender issues.

The session was held as part of the "Climate Change and Gender Equality" Initiative, which was launched under the patronage of H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF).

Speaking at the session, Sheikha Dr. Mouza bint Tahnoon bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said, "Climate change does not affect everyone equally, as women and girls bear a disproportionate impact

'Women's leadership is a catalyst for transformative change in climate action'



and the burden often falls on the shoulders of the most vulnerable, such as caregivers, refugees and rural women. They face extreme vulnerability in the face of natural disasters, as women and girls account for 80% of all people displaced by climate emergencies.

“In addition, they suffer from loss of livelihood, food insecurity, limited access to clean water and sanitation, and they are burdened with increased care responsibilities as communities seek to build resilience and deal with the effects of climate change.”

“Yet, hope remains, as we can harness the power of global cooperation and solidarity to pave the way for a sustainable and equitable future. This requires listening to the voices of women and girls who often take the lead in climate action within their communities.”

She further explained the importance of data and evidence in driving change, to tailor interventions and ensure that they are gender-responsive and sensitive to the diverse needs and experiences of women, particularly from marginalised and vulnerable communities.

Partnerships and collaborations must extend beyond governments and international organisations. Civil society, academia, businesses and grassroots organisations must also be involved to benefit from their knowledge, experience and resources.

For her part, Noura Al Suwaidi, Secretary-General of the General Women's Union, affirmed the UAE's belief in gender equality as one of the main pillars for building a world of peace, prosperity and environmental sustainability, a vision that is also showcased and reflected in the field of



climate action.

She said, "Climate change represents the most complex challenge in the current era, so it requires coordination and a proactive and comprehensive response. And promoting gender equality will lead to the adoption of more equitable, sustainable and effective solutions."

For her part, Dr. Mouza Al Shehhi, Director of UN Women Liaison office for the GCC, said: "Climate change affects women and men differently, and it is critical to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls. By integrating gender into our climate strategies, we can ensure a more inclusive response."

She said, "We must also empower and strengthen women's voices. Women's leadership is a catalyst for transformative change in climate action. Let's

create spaces for women to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes. We must also strive for gender-sensitive climate financing. By investing in women, we invest in the resilience of our communities, as well. By enhancing women's skills and expertise in climate-related fields, we unlock their potential as agents of change."

Other speakers at the session included Andrea Fontana, Ambassador of the European Union to the UAE; Mervat Shelbaya, Head, Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat and Director, Inter-Agency Support Branch (IASB) – UNOCHA; Alfonso Ferdinand, Ambassador of the Philippines to the UAE; Sarah Adil Shaw, Senior Advisor at COP 28 UAE; and Ahlam Saeed Al-Lamki, Head of Department of Research and Development at the General Women Union.

'Amazon Countries Need More Power In Climate Debate'

Countries that border the Amazon rainforest need to have a bigger voice in the international climate debate and greater representation on global environmental forums, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said.

Organizations such as the Global Environment Facility, for instance, make Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador share a single seat on its council while

CLIMATE CHANGE



developed economies like the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Sweden each have their own seats, he said as quoted by Bloomberg.

"It is inexplicable that international mechanisms of financing reproduce a logic of exclusion," Lula said Saturday at an environmental conference in Leticia, Colombia, where he also met with the nation's president, Gustavo Petro.

Authorities from eight member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela held meetings in Leticia ahead of the regional summit to be held in August in Brazil.

Petro criticized countries that pollute the most, like the US and China, for not investing enough to combat climate change. "Overcoming the climate crisis requires an investment of USD3.3 trillion a

year," he said.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva also defended the creation of a panel of specialists inspired by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to focus on science-based recommendations for the Amazon. Countries in the region must also cooperate to increase regional security and fight crime, he said.



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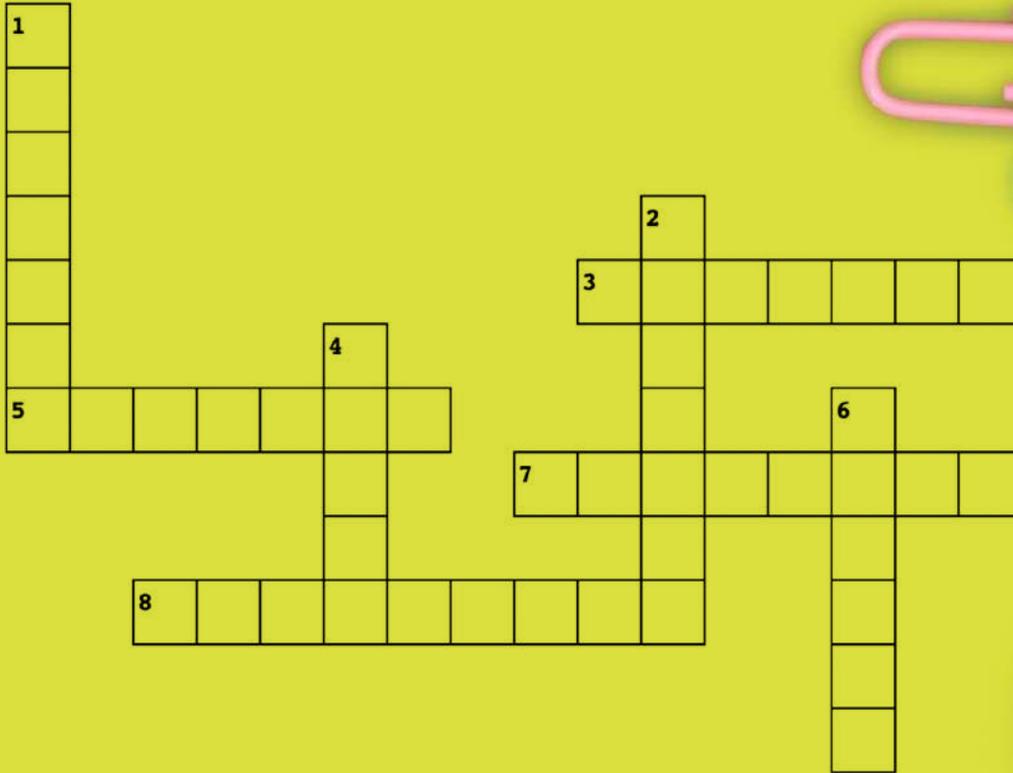
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ANSWERS: 1) Fauna 2) Oceans 3) Afforestation 4) Turtles 5) Policies 6) Destruct 7) Recycle 8) Global

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M	R	U	T	A	H	A	S	O	I	L	P	X	C
E	G	C	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	S	M	S

- EXTINCTION
- GERMINATE
- MUD
- WARMTH
- SOIL
- FERTILE
- MOUNTAINS
- MANAGE
- PLANTS
- PROCESS

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 3. Severe water shortage
- 5. Genus subdivision
- 7. Snowstorm with high winds
- 8. Smog, for instance

Down

- 1. Plant materials and animal waste used as fuel
- 2. Process of wearing away
- 4. Copper or steel
- 6. Containing salt
- 7. Moral justice

ANSWERS: 1) Biomass 2) Erosion 3) Drought 4) Metal
5) Species 6) Saline 7) Blizzard 8) Pollution

WORD OF THE DAY:

ZERO WASTE

Living a zero-waste lifestyle whether at home or in your business, means you strive to use as little single-use plastic as possible, instead opting for sustainable and reusable alternatives. In short, it means you send as little as possible to landfills, which can damage the environment and natural habitat around them. Replacing as much as possible with reusable products will ultimately protect the environment, benefit communities and support a circular economy. The 3 R's play an important role in this; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This means reducing what you use, reusing as much as you can, send what's left to recycling, and compost what you cannot.

Before the advent of single-use packaging and today's "disposable" mindset, zero waste was a feature of certain business systems simply because it was cost-effective and convenient. Examples include traditional milk rounds that relied on reusable and returnable glass bottles for delivery.

In this example, the raw materials used to manufacture the glass are kept in the loop, with minimal waste generated when washing, heat treating, and capping bottles. Arguably, true zero-waste is never achieved, however, assessments of the lifecycle of the various packaging options show that glass produces far less waste than contemporary materials.

Unfortunately, like milk, many businesses that



worked in similar ways were largely swallowed by single-use plastic packaging. However, over the last decade, examples of zero-waste thinking have been on the rise, particularly within sustainability-focused companies, but also within mainstream businesses that are slowly beginning to embrace waste reduction.

Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will help reduce discharges to land, water, or air that may be a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health and imitate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are resources for others to use.

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY - AUGUST 12

World Elephant Day is an international annual event on August 12, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants. World Elephant Day is the vehicle by which organizations and individuals can rally together to give voice to the issues threatening elephants.

The goal of World Elephant Day is to create awareness of the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants. African elephants are listed as "Vulnerable"

and Asian elephants as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. The current population estimates are about 400,000 for African elephants and 40,000 for Asian elephants, although it has been argued that these numbers are much too high.

The escalation of poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity are just some of the threats to both African and Asian elephants. Working towards better protection for wild elephants, improving enforcement policies to prevent the illegal poaching and trade of ivory, conserving elephant habitats, better treatment for captive elephants and, when appropriate, reintroducing captive elephants into natural, protected sanctuaries are the goals that numerous elephant conservation organizations are focusing on around the world.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY - AUGUST 12

International Youth Day is commemorated every year on 12 August, bringing youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrating the potential of youth as partners in today's global society.

The theme for this year's Youth Day is: Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World. Today, the world is embarking on a green transition. The shift towards an environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly world is critical not only for responding to the global climate crisis but also for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A successful transition towards a greener world will depend on the development of green skills in the population. Green skills are "knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society".

These include technical knowledge and skills that enable the effective use of green technologies and processes in occupational settings, as well as transversal skills that draw on a range of knowledge, values and attitudes to facilitate environmentally sustainable decisions in work and in life. Due to their interdisciplinary nature, the essence of green skills is sometimes expressed, partly if not wholly, through other associated terms such as "skills for the future" and "skills for green jobs". While green

skills are relevant for people of all ages, they have heightened importance for younger people, who can contribute to the green transition for a longer period of time.

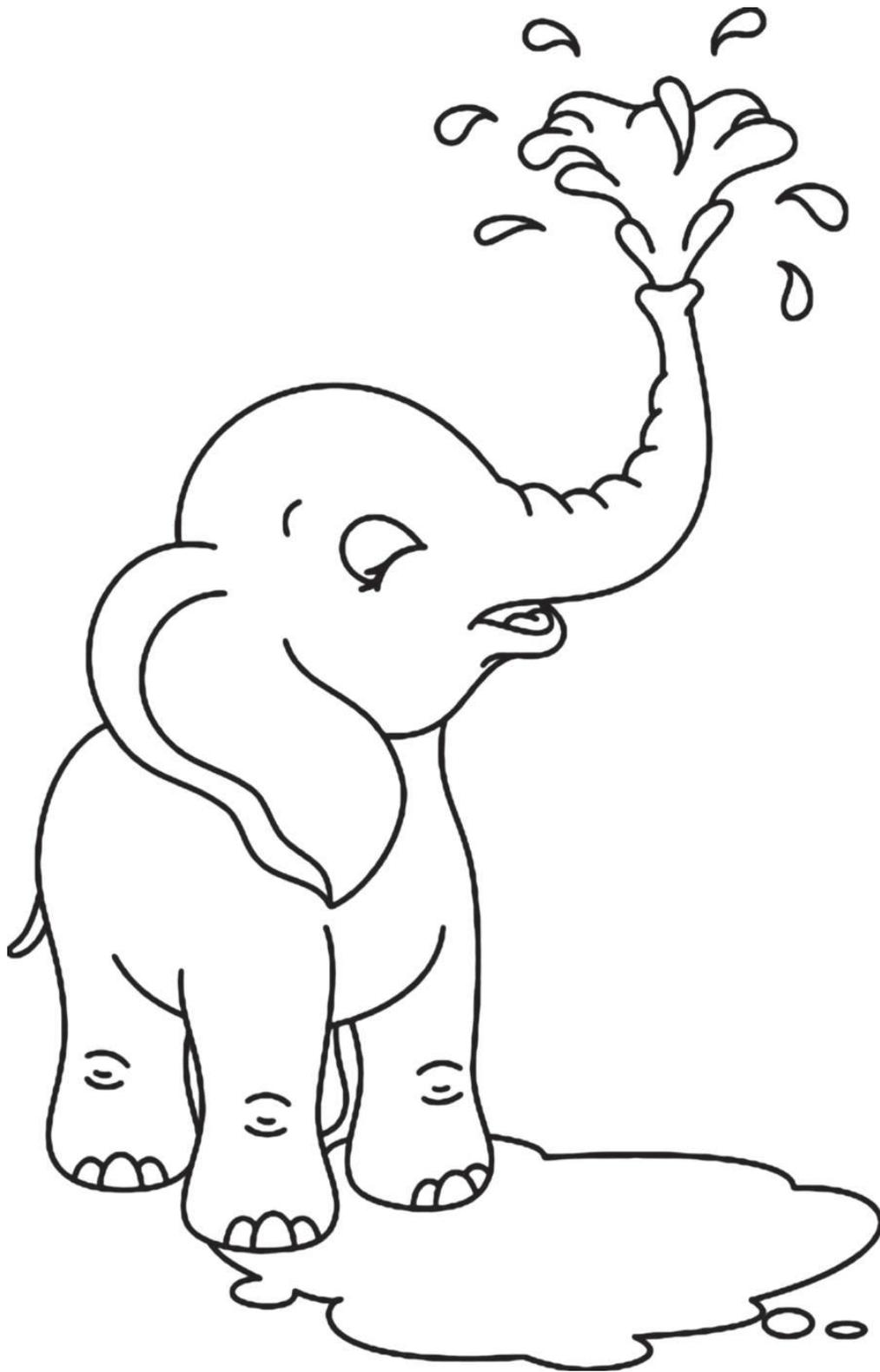


What can you do to help?

Things to Do...

- Do not leave the tap running! -----
- Carry a water bottle! -----
- Ride your bicycle or take the metro around! -----
- Do not waste food! -----
- Unplug all electronics when not in use! -----

COLOUR ME!



Al Dhaid Dates Festival Awards 130 Winners, Attracts Thousands Of Visitors

The seventh edition of the Al Dhaid Dates Festival, organised by Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and hosted at Al Dhaid Expo Centre, concluded successfully.

In addition to resurrecting the UAE's popular legacy and long-standing traditions, the event was able to solidify its place as a top-notch platform for local promotion and development



UAE NEWS

for palm cultivation and date production industries. Given the success it achieved over the course of four days, the festival had 130 winners and attracted thousands of visitors over four days, an increase of 25 percent compared to last year's edition.

Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of SCCI, a number of members of SCCI Board of Directors, Mohammad Musabah Al Tunaiji, General Coordinator of the Festival, members of the Festival's Organising Committee, and a number of directors, officials, and representatives of the participating government agencies, were present at the closing ceremony to witness the crowning of the festival's winners at the two popular competitions, namely, General Elite and Al Dhaid Fort Elite.

Abdallah Sultan Al Owais emphasised that the Al

Dhaid Date Festival's extraordinary success underscores the SCCI's long-term strategy for the event, which is exemplified by the significant participation of farmers and owners of palm trees as well as the high level of visitor turnout.

The festival supports the UAE's efforts to develop a productive and sustainable agricultural sector by serving as a global model that encourages excellence in the field of agricultural sustainability, inspiring farmers and palm owners to adopt best practices and adhere to modern agricultural practices. The underlying goal is to promote a spirit of positive competition, with the aim of developing and diversifying local production in a way that supports the objectives of the National Strategy for Food Security, which aims to make the UAE the best in the world in the global food security index by 2051.

From seawater to sand: The promise of eco-friendly batteries

The CO₂ emissions in the transport sector are about 23% worldwide. We need to reduce that by at least 50% by the year 2050.

The electric vehicle (EV) industry is the main route to achieving this and it is in a transformative phase today. As the high costs of production and limitations of current lithium-ion batteries are becoming apparent, the pursuit of better and more efficient battery technology is propelling EVs into a new era of extended range and enhanced performance.

Breakthrough innovations such as solid-state batteries that deliver higher energy density, quicker charging times, and improved safety hold the promise of reduced emissions and quieter



Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif
Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International
Foundation for the
Environment

streets. Lithium-sulfur (Li-S) batteries represent another quantum leap in battery technology. Their high energy density and lightweight composition significantly extend ranges for electric cars.

Last February, Kieth Kohl wrote about a battery 10 times more powerful than Tesla's Lithium-ion battery, which can be fully charged in less than 5 minutes and is roughly the size of a drop of water!

The journey to reducing environmental footprint has also led researchers to a groundbreaking concept: batteries derived from seawater and sand. This novel approach to battery development has the potential to revolutionize energy storage, making strides towards a cleaner and more sustainable world. Sourcing lithium from the waters, which hold vast quantities of the metal—upward of 200 billion tonnes by some estimates, is a significant breakthrough for renewable energy development and combines reduced costs with high energy density.

Sand, another seemingly mundane resource, is also taking center stage in the battery revolution. Researchers are now focused on using silicon at the nanoscale, as a replacement for graphite. Silicon's remarkable ability to store more energy than graphite could translate to batteries with significantly increased energy density and make batteries more efficient and capable of holding greater amounts of charge, ultimately extending the range and lifespan of electric vehicles.

The journey to create functional batteries from seawater and sand is not without its challenges. Innovations of this scale require rigorous research and development, as well as adjustments to production processes. Challenges such as scalability, efficiency, and commercial viability must be overcome. But the rewards of reducing our reliance on scarce resources and lessening the environmental impact of battery production has opened doors to a more sustainable energy future.



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