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# Society & Environment

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

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## Expo 2020 Dubai Addresses World's Greatest Challenges At Global Goals Week

Chevrolet's 2022 Bolt EUV:  
Promise Of An All-Electric Future



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**T**he UAE's role in accelerating momentum on the Global Goals as we enter the second year of the Decade of Action cannot be emphasised enough as this year, the Expo 2020 Dubai took forward the shared commitment of cultivating ideas, identifying solutions, and building partnerships to accelerate action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As the Global Goals Week came to life at Expo 2020 Dubai - leaving the UN General Assembly for the first time in its history - it signalled the power of global solidarity in shaping our shared future by working together across borders, nationalities, sectors, and generations to share ideas and transformative solutions in the fight to build back better from global challenges.

## Chairman's Message

At Expo 2020 Dubai, nations came together to speak out as one voice to solve a wide range of complex global problems from inequality to climate change and highlight the need for increased commitments to deliver on the promise of the Decade of Action.



**Prof. Mohammed  
bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

This annual week of action, awareness, and accountability for the SDGs has never been more critical than it is now as the world still grapples with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Goals are the definite pathway to progress towards a safer and more equal world.

Convening world leaders and prominent decision makers with people around the world in conversation and action, the impactful range of activities at Expo 2020 Dubai offered inspiring new perspectives to address the greatest challenges and opportunities of our time.

Expo 2020 Dubai is the most significant global gathering to take place in the COVID-19 era, and it showcased the progress that can be made when the world works together.

# Contents

4

WHAT'S INSIDE



06

## COVER STORY

Expo 2020 Dubai drives efforts to address world's greatest challenges at Global Goals Week

12

## ENVIRONMENT

UAE celebrates National Environment Day

14



**WASTE MANAGEMENT:** Dubai Approves Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2041-2021

16

## CLIMATE CHANGE

IRENA Youth Forum spotlight role of youth in shaping global response to climate change

18



**EXPO 2020 DUBAI:** UAE, Jordan and The Netherlands address water-food-energy nexus at Expo 2020 Dubai

30

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

SRTIP, AUS to develop low-cost technologies for generation of Green Hydrogen



34

**OCEAN CONSERVATION:** FAO Hails UAE's Leading Efforts In Sustainable Farming

## ELECTRIC MOBILITY

Chevrolet's 2022 Bolt EUV: Promise of an all-electric future

40



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48



### GREEN CITY

Helsinki: A model of sustainable, good living

62

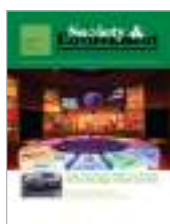
### BIO-DIVERSITY

'Healthy soils for a healthy people and planet'

64



**SUSTAINABILITY:** Phase 1 of Yiti Integrated Tourism Development launched



## Upcoming events

### One Planet Summit For the Oceans

**Date:** February 9-11

**Location:** Brest, France and Online

The ocean, which covers more than 70% of our planet, feeds us, regulates our climate, and generates most of the oxygen we breathe. However, the ocean is threatened by climate change, plastic pollution, and marine resources' overexploitation.

Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, will host the One Ocean Summit to mobilise the international community to take concrete action to reduce these adverse effects on the ocean. The hybrid Summit aims to raise the international community's level of ambition on maritime issues and translate our shared responsibility for the Ocean into concrete actions.

### Circularity and due diligence

**Date:** February 22

**Online event**

Textile production, consumption and disposal is at an all-time high, with no indication of slowing down. This ever-increasing rate requires evermore land, water and fossil fuels, leading to increased environmental dangers such as pollution and emissions.

Shifting to circular business models is critical in delivering sustainability for the industry and requires global approaches with radically new visions and ways of doing business. This can only be achieved by mobilizing actors across regions and at all levels of the textile value chain, including leveraging the capabilities of and providing opportunity to SMEs and workers.

### Middle East and North Africa Regional Climate Week

**Date:** February 28 – March 3

**Location:** Dubai, UAE

The first-ever MENA Climate Week will accelerate collaboration and integrate climate action into global pandemic recovery.

MENA Climate Week 2022 provides a platform for governments, cities, private sector leaders, financial institutions and civil society to discuss opportunities to build forward from the pandemic by identifying opportunities to enhance climate action. The event will bring together key stakeholders to take the pulse of climate action in the region, explore climate challenges and opportunities and showcase ambitious solutions.



## Expo 2020 Dubai Addresses World's Greatest Challenges At Global Goals Week

The Global Goals Week – held for the first time in its history outside of the UN's General Assembly in New York – commenced at Expo 2020 Dubai on January 15 with an impassioned speech by the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations (UN). The week ended on January 22 with a promise to keep driving efforts to address the world's biggest challenges.



Expo 2020 Dubai brought together partners, activists and advocates from around the world to mobilise and accelerate momentum on the Global Goals as we enter the second year of the Decade of Action

"It is up to each and every one of us, individually and collectively, to turn this engagement into partnerships and investments that tangibly improve people's lives everywhere," said Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the UN, at the launch at Al Wasl Plaza. "With the Global Goals woven into the fabric of Expo 2020, I cannot think of a more appropriate place for us to renew our shared commitment to keep the promises that we made in 2015."

Since then, Global Goals Week – held in association with the UN, has hosted a myriad of special hybrid events, activations and unforgettable visitor experiences, each highlighting our collective, urgent need to address the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) before the end of 2030.

Speakers at headline event 'Global Goals for All'

*For the first time in its history, Global Goals Week – held this year at Expo 2020 Dubai - has taken place outside of the UN's General Assembly in New York*



at the Nexus for People and Planet in Expo's Opportunity District included Sanda Ojiambo, CEO and Executive Director, UN Global Compact; Jerome Foster II, US climate justice activist and youngest-ever White House Climate Advisor; the Rt Hon Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand; and SDG advocates British screenwriter Richard Curtis and US actress Robin Wright.

### **'All hands on deck'**

Joining virtually, Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said: "If we're going to reach the critical goals by 2030, we need 2022 and every year after to be a year of action. It's going to take all hands on deck – governments, philanthropies, non-profits and the private sector; a committed focus to working together to reach the SDGs in the next years."

The World's To-Do List campaign was used as a wrapper for the week, framing each session in the context of the SDGs – the most comprehensive to-do list for people and planet, and bringing the entire Expo 2020 Dubai site alive with post-it pledges and activations featuring the distinctive SDG colour wheel.

As the most significant global gathering since the start of the pandemic, Expo 2020 Dubai continues to be a powerful galvaniser of action towards the SDGs, encouraging meaningful partnerships between 200 participating nations, multilateral organisations, educational establishments, businesses and social enterprises, as well as millions of visitors.

### **Collaboration and bold business action**

Bold action on the SDGs, and accountability from businesses to the Goals, as well as responsible



SDG-aligned investment strategies, proved key themes at the Global Goals Business Forum, which brought together industry names from across the public and private sectors.

UN Global Compact's Sanda Ojiambo said: "We need business leaders to make bold business decisions for the future, we need businesses to integrate the SDGs into their corporate strategies, and we need businesses to account for their externalities in the same way they account for their business losses." Similarly, innovations that tackle the 17 SDGs need partnership, accountability and collaboration if they are to scale up and make an even bigger impact in communities all over the world, speakers agreed at Expo 2020 Dubai's Global Best Practice Assembly.

The inaugural Water-Food-Energy (WFE) Summit

saw the UAE, Jordan and the Netherlands issue a trilateral declaration affirming their commitment to supporting a nexus approach that optimises the use of water, food and energy, and called on other governments to acknowledge the inter-dependent relationships between these three critical resources.

Three separate World Majlis sessions throughout the week brought together leaders from government, social enterprises, academia and inter-governmental organisations, discussing the numerous risks and honing in on emerging technologies and renewable energy – sharing different approaches on how to overcome barriers, from value-driven partnerships to debunking stereotypes.

Underpinning all these efforts, the need to achieve gender equality and women's



*"With the Global Goals woven into the fabric of Expo 2020, I cannot think of a more appropriate place for us to renew our shared commitment to keep the promises that we made in 2015."*



empowerment was highlighted as essential, not only for the sake of fulfilling a human right but also for the advancement of humankind.

Rt Hon Helen Clark said: "If we can't achieve SDG 5 [Gender Equality], then we can't achieve the SDGs. When women have less access to healthcare and education, and are more numerous among the poor and hungry, you just can't make progress. Turn that around: if women are fully supported, then you are not only fulfilling their right to equality, but it's also a huge contributor to prosperous societies, families and economies."

Other standouts throughout the week included an inspirational 'H2O Sounds of Earth' session, which showed how communities in Paraguay are promoting sustainable values and good citizen practices through music. The week culminated with a stunning 'Cultures in Conversation'

performance by Sima Dance Company, which, like the Goals themselves, was driven by dignity, a desire for peace, and sensitivity to the planet and its inhabitants.

Driving action towards achieving the Global Goals will continue throughout the rest of Expo 2020 Dubai, catalysing a movement that will help create a blueprint for our collective future that positively impacts people and the planet.



## Europe's Circular Economy Presented To World At Expo 2020 Dubai

An event at the Expo 2020 Dubai showcased Europe's work for the transition to the circular economy and how it brings together stakeholders from across the spectrum.

The European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, a joint initiative of the European Commission and the European Economic and



Social Committee, hosted the Circular Europe Days event at the Expo on January 17-18, 2022.

The event showed Europe's willingness to foster international cooperation especially in a time of post-pandemic awareness and recovery. It was also an opportunity to present the results of the thematic Leadership Groups' work on selected themes included Cities and Regions, Buildings and Infrastructure, Food waste and Bioeconomy, Circular Procurement and Economic Incentives, and Governance of Circular Hubs.

In a virtual message, Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans said, "We must find a way to prosper together. The transition to the circular economy is at the heart of the European Green Deal to reach climate neutrality by 2050."

"Last year's Circularity Gap report showed that

by doubling circularity we can shrink global greenhouse gas emissions by 39 percent and cut virgin resource use by 28 percent in the next 10 years. To get there we need to profoundly change our production and consumption patterns and invest in the circular business models," he added.

Five national European pavilions are holding high-level events on the opportunities and barriers to understand successful European projects in the field of circular economy, including Ireland, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, and Finland, who have joined forces to create an international space for EU circular entrepreneurs.

An on-site and online matchmaking platform further facilitated collaboration and networking opportunities for European entrepreneurs, including with stakeholders in the Gulf region.



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## UAE celebrates National Environment Day

The UAE celebrated the 25th edition of the annual National Environment Day on February 4 under the theme, "Climate Action Now," to raise the awareness of entrepreneurs and members of the community about climate change and its repercussions.

Climate action and strategies to reduce carbon emissions have become an integral part of the



The UAE has sought to transition to clean energy over 15 years ago and now hosts three of the largest solar energy power plants in the world

UAE's development model, which aims to encourage environmentally friendly investments and turn challenges into opportunities.

The recently published report by McKinsey, titled, "The Net-Zero Transition: What it Would Cost, What it Could Bring," noted that aiming to achieve global carbon neutrality by 2050 will cost US\$275 trillion. A report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), titled, "Transforming the Energy System," also highlighted that nearly \$3.2 trillion needs to be invested each year, nearly two percent of global GDP, to achieve the transition to low-carbon energy technologies.

Under this framework, the UAE's comprehensive development plan for the next 50 years aims to reinforce its stature among advanced countries in accelerating the transition to a green economy, as the cornerstone of the recovery from the

*Climate action and strategies to reduce carbon emissions have become an integral part of the UAE's development model*



negative economic and social repercussions of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on all communities. Today, amidst the return to normalcy, the importance of investing in a green recovery has become clear, primarily through the adoption of plans by governments to support their economies and to address the decline in investments in environmentally friendly activities due to related preventive measures.

On National Environment Day, the UAE reiterated its commitment to the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and its adherence to implementing the policies, strategies, legislations, plans and programmes adopted by its leadership to ensure a sustainable future, by creating a balance between economic and social development and environmental protection.

The UAE has adopted a comprehensive policy with appropriate strategies and initiatives,

including the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative. It also launched the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, a roadmap for supporting national activities and initiatives that aim to address climate change.

The UAE Cabinet adopted the UAE Circular Economy Policy 2021-2031 and in 2012, the country adopted a green economy approach to support its sustainable development through the UAE Green Growth Strategy, in addition to the UAE 2021 Vision, a national strategy that includes several indicators to ensure sustainable environmental development.

The Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment also launched the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme to enhance the country's resilience to the changing effects of climate change.

## Dubai Approves Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2021-2041

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, chaired the Council's meeting at the DP World Pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai.

During the meeting, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum praised the Government of Dubai's achievements in 2021,



The Executive Council of  
Dubai approves the  
Integrated Waste  
Management Strategy  
2021-2041, with a budget  
of AED74.5 billion

which contributed to further strengthening the city's position as a leading global destination that is able to create various opportunities and nurture success.

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said that 2022 will be a transformative year that will see the Government of Dubai achieving new milestones.

"We continue to draw inspiration from the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to strengthen Dubai's position as a leading destination for investors, entrepreneurs and visitors," His Highness said.

During the meeting, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum approved



*The private sector's direct contribution to the budget amounts to AED70.5 billion*



the Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2021-2041, with a budget of AED74.5 billion. The Strategy, which seeks to encourage innovation in waste management, recycling and energy conversion, complements a range of projects adopted by The Executive Council of Dubai in the areas of sustainability, environmental conservation, quality of life development and building a sustainable future.

His Highness highlighted the private sector's role as a key strategic partner in Dubai's efforts to become a sustainable city. The private sector's direct contribution to the Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2021-2041 budget amounts to AED70.5 billion, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum noted.

The Strategy seeks to implement long-term projects over the next 20 years by providing

practical solutions to environmental challenges in line with the environmental objectives outlined in the government's agenda. It also aims to enhance efforts to enrich all vital areas and sectors.

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum praised the various efforts that contributed to significant economic growth across various key sectors in Dubai during the first nine months of 2021.

The emirate's GDP growth rate reached 6.3%, driven by a qualitative jump in the second quarter, which recorded a growth of 17.8% compared to the same period in 2020. This growth reflects Dubai's successful strategy in dealing with the pandemic and underscores the pivotal role of trade in enhancing economic performance.

## IRENA Spotlights Role Of Youth In Shaping Global Response To Climate Change

**M**ariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, participated in the 2022 IRENA Youth Forum, held under the theme 'Youth-led solutions to accelerate the energy transition and achieve climate objectives' as part of the 12th session of the IRENA Assembly.

The event aimed to highlight the contribution of



More than 400 young energy leaders have called on organisations, governments, private sector, academia and civil society to take urgent action to ensure that the energy transition is led by the youth

young people to developing solutions that can fast-track the transition to renewable energy, and identify the main areas of the global energy transition that require youth's support.

In her opening remarks to the audience of youth delegates, the Minister said, "It is clear by now that your involvement and leadership play a pivotal role in realising a just and inclusive sustainable energy transition. Collectively and individually, your innovations will help develop renewables that accelerate the energy transition and put the world on a path to meet climate targets. For you, this is personal.

"Climate change is here. Its impacts are intensifying over time, and so it is our duty to equip you with information, skills, know-how, science, and technology, and involve you in shaping our response to climate change."



*The 2022 IRENA Youth Forum was held under the theme, 'Youth-led solutions to accelerate the energy transition and achieve climate objectives'*



She added, "Here in the UAE, we strongly believe in our young people's ability to play an active role in strengthening climate action. They will be at the forefront of fulfilling our net-zero ambition. Over the course of the next three decades, we will rely on young innovators to help us achieve our Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative by developing climate-smart solutions that are instrumental to our success in making the UAE climate-neutral by 2050."

The Minister continued: "Sadly, I notice that you are often excluded from decision-making processes in climate action, even though your ability to bring fresh perspectives and insights is of such great value when addressing global challenges. And so our promise to you is that we will have the highest levels of youth participation in delegations to the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) that the UAE will host in

less than two years. Young people just like you will be sitting at the negotiation tables side by side with senior officials, making sure your voices are heard when shaping your future."

She added, "Bridging the gap between the young generation and decision makers, we will deliver a youth-centered event that will drive momentum towards robust, ambitious climate action."

The Forum featured a presentation on the outcome of the Global Youth Energy Outlook (GYEO) report by Student Energy, a youth-led international organisation empowering young people to accelerate the sustainable energy transition. Moreover, promising young innovators and entrepreneurs from across the energy space showcased their renewables solutions that can help the world meet its climate goals.



## UAE, Jordan And The Netherlands Address Water-Food-Energy Nexus

The UAE, Jordan, and the Netherlands wrapped up the inaugural edition of the Water-Food-Energy (WFE) Summit on January 19, 2022.

Held over two days as part of Expo 2020 Dubai's Global Goals Week, this is the first-of-its-kind trilateral event aimed at advancing innovation to tackle some of the most significant water, food,



Event at Expo 2020 Dubai aimed at accelerating the UN's 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals

and energy challenges. Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment; Mohammad Al Najjar, Minister of Water and Irrigation of Jordan; and Liesje Schreinemacher, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, opened the summit on behalf of the host countries.

The hybrid event drew the participation of high-level government officials, leaders from the private sector, members of the academic and scientific community, and youth delegates.

The UAE, Jordan, and the Netherlands issued a trilateral declaration affirming their commitment to supporting a nexus approach that optimises resource use and called on other governments to join them in acknowledging the interdependent relationships between water, food, and energy.

*Population growth, resource-intensive lifestyles, and the damaging effects of climate change will lead to water, energy, and food insecurity across the globe*



The statement said, "Clean water, sustainable energy, and sufficient food are critical for survival, and their absence impacts the health and livelihoods of communities across the globe."

The joint statement encouraged governments to incorporate practical solutions to water, food, and energy challenges into policymaking and accelerate progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ministers expressed their hope that the summit would serve as "a springboard for more collective efforts in international fora to boost the Water Food Energy nexus approach".

Almheiri said, "As we move towards a global population of 10 billion in 2050, current ecosystems face immense pressure to meet the growing demand for water, food, and energy without putting further strain on our natural

resources. We are aware that in the next nine years, the world must achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that this requires us to redouble our efforts given the inadequate progress so far and the aggravating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Minister Schreinemacher, in turn, stated, "Around the world, we face enormous challenges when it comes to water, energy, and food: rising water levels, or not having enough water, extreme weather due to climate change, and food scarcity. These issues affect all countries, so we must look for solutions together. This cooperation between the Netherlands, the UAE and Jordan is a good example of how all parties can benefit. The UAE and Jordan are facing water scarcity and are looking for smart solutions to this problem. That is an area of expertise the Netherlands and Dutch companies are known for."



She added: "For example, our three countries are working on a database that keeps track of how much water is needed to provide people with drinking water and how to grow vegetables now and in even more extreme weather conditions. The interaction between the business community, knowledge institutions, and governments is essential in tackling these global challenges."

Dr. Saleh Al Kharabsheh, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan, commented, "In the coming decades, the world will need increasing amounts of resources. Population growth, resource-intensive lifestyles, and the damaging effects of climate change will lead to water, energy, and food insecurity across the globe."

"I very much welcome this summit, whose co-curators' aim to increase the collective understanding of the interdependent

relationships between water, energy, and food security, and to provide solutions that integrate the three amidst the ongoing collaborations between our three countries."

To demonstrate what technology, knowledge, and cooperation can achieve, the event featured a presentation on the WFE Nexus Dashboard, designed by a previously established trilateral working group comprising UAE, Jordan, and the Netherlands.

The evidence-based nexus approach brings together relevant data related to the three scarce resources. With the help of the dashboard, this data can be used to outline synergies between water, food, and energy to enhance efficiency and identify potential tradeoffs where choices have to be made.



## Abu Dhabi Reduces Waste Sent To Landfills By 40%

His Excellency Dr. Salem Al Kaabi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Waste Management Center (Tadweer), said that the Center has succeeded in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills by 40% in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The Center continues working to achieve its strategic goal of reducing the total of waste sent to landfills by 80% by 2030.



His Excellency made the announcement during a media forum organised by Abu Dhabi Waste Management Center (Tadweer) on the second day of the eighth edition of EcoWASTE 2022 Exhibition and Forum in Abu Dhabi.

His Excellency Al Kaabi said: "Tadweer aims to release tenders for two projects: converting waste to energy project, and MRF-RDF (Material Recovery Facilities - Refuse Derived Fuel) project during the first quarter of 2022. The Center will complete a series of strategic projects and initiatives during the year. These projects include converting waste into aviation fuel, extracting gas from landfills, establishing engineering cells, issuing ID cards for workers in the pest control and waste management sectors, providing the e-manifest platform to other state establishments, and importing waste from outside the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

### Interactive sessions

In a presentation, Dr. Al Kaabi outlined the Center's efforts for safely managing and disposing medical waste contaminated with COVID-19 with an overall capacity of 16 tonnes per day. These efforts were supported by launching the project for medical waste treatment in Abu Dhabi and the project for collecting, transporting, and treating medical waste in Al Ain.

On another panel, His Excellency Al Kaabi highlighted the importance of managing food waste using advanced technology, to reduce carbon emissions, use less energy, reduce costs, and other such benefits. During his visit to other pavilions, he was also briefed on the best practices and the latest technologies and systems in the field of waste management.

## Mohammed Bin Rashid Honours 10 Winners Of 2022 Zayed Sustainability Prize

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, presented awards to the 10 winners of the 2022 Zayed Sustainability Prize.

The Prize's Awards Ceremony coincided with the start of the 2022 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW). The ceremony was also attended by

2022 FINALISTS  
ANNOUNCED



The Zayed Sustainability Prize recognised pioneers across the categories of Health, Food, Energy, Water, and Global High Schools, for their sustainable solutions

H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum congratulated winners across the five categories reaffirming the Prize's key role in realising the aspirations of participants to achieve sustainable development within their communities.

This year, the Zayed Sustainability Prize, along with ADSW, joined forces with Expo 2020 Dubai for hosting the ADSW Opening Ceremony and the 13th edition of the Prize's Awards Ceremony, both of which took place on January 17 at the Dubai Exhibition Centre. The event brought thousands of attendees and more than 600 VIPs from around the world together, including heads of state, government ministers, industry leaders

*The USD 3 million Prize recognises SMEs, NPOs, and global high schools for their innovative, impactful, and inspirational sustainability and humanitarian solutions*



and country ambassadors, amongst others.

In his remarks on the Awards Ceremony, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, said: “The UAE continues to make important strides and contributions to advancing the global sustainability agenda to stimulate economic and human sustainable development, under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Zayed Sustainability Prize remains at the forefront of these efforts as it continues to set the course for alleviating hardships and improving lives by rewarding impact and innovation through a platform that can reach a much larger number of beneficiaries.”

His Highness continued: “Over the last 14 years, the wise and long-term vision and legacy of the UAE’s Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed, has ignited

the passions of millions of sustainability pioneers the world over, inspiring us to take the Prize to new heights by strengthening and diversifying its offerings to become the all-encompassing award it is today.”

The event was also attended by H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior; H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs; H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council; and Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, in addition to various heads of state, ministers, and other senior-level dignitaries from the UAE and abroad, in addition to past winners, and the 2022 finalists.

The US\$3 million Prize is the UAE’s pioneering





sustainability award that recognises small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), non-profit organisations (NPOs), and global high schools for their innovative, impactful, and inspirational sustainability and humanitarian solutions. Through its 86 former winners, the Prize has transformed the lives of more than 370 million people, across 150 countries, since 2008. In the Health, Food, Energy, and Water categories, each winner receives USD 600,000, while the Global High Schools category has six winners, representing six world regions, with each winner receiving up to USD 100,000.

In terms of the Global High School category, His Highness highlighted the importance of strengthening the youth's capacity as a driving force for future sustainable development to shape tomorrow's leaders and effectively empower them to play a larger role in advancing

their impact on socio-cultural and economic development, in a rapidly changing world.

On a broader level, His Highness also praised the level of foresight and sophistication that many of the student-led proposals displayed, noting their potential impact on an individual, community and global level.

In the 'Health' Category, Argentina's Mamotest was awarded the Prize for its efforts to increase access to diagnoses and life-saving services in tele-radiology and remote analysis. Mamotest is currently deploying centres that are providing 582,697 beneficiaries affected by breast cancer access to quality healthcare, with plans to scale this to over 1 million people over a period of five years. Mamotest also enjoys robust patient-journey follow up as 87% of women diagnosed within their system could receive lifesaving

*Till date, the Prize has transformed the lives of more than 370 million people, across 150 countries, since 2008*



Zayed Sustainability Prize Winner, David Pong Yan, social entrepreneur and co-founder and chief executive of Watroam.



Zayed Sustainability Prize Winners. (L-R) Joseph Weizsaecker and Merrick Richers; designed a project to collect water and electricity from the air.

treatment on time. Furthermore, Mamotest has successfully carried out more than 5,000 diagnoses to date while creating awareness in millions of women.

S4S Technologies from India was the 'Food' category winner for its important work in food preservation and dehydration systems. They currently directly impact 35,820 people and the SME plans to scale this to 10 million individuals over the course of five years.

The organisation is committed to empowering rural women and harnessing new technology to reduce food waste and improve income for farmers and is deploying solar-powered technology to help women farmers increase their earnings. As part of its commitment to supporting Gender Equality, backed by economic opportunities, S4S Technologies has provided

additional income to 455 women farmers turned micro-entrepreneurs, increasing their profit between 50 to 200%, annually.

In the Energy category, the Bangladesh-based SOLshare created an interconnected microgrid for peer-to-peer energy exchange networks to enable more efficient distribution of electricity across rural communities in the country. The organisation won the 2022 award for its efforts in energy management as it currently benefits a total of 35,300 people with plans to expand reach to 2 million people in the next five years.

SOLshare is providing more than 1,000 households with access to over 85 MWh of additional clean energy and serves approximately 500 entrepreneurs within their grids, of which 25% are women who experience significant income rises as a result.



Dr Sebastian Groh, founder and managing director of SOLshare, created SOLbazaar, the world's first peer-to-peer energy exchange network where homes with a rooftop solar panel sell any excess electricity into a microgrid network where others can buy it.

Wateroom, an SME from Singapore, secured the 'Water' category win for its commitment to tackling the global challenge of contaminated water through portable water filters to serve disaster-hit and rural communities. Wateroom's safe drinking water solutions are benefitting more than 150,000 people across 38 countries globally with daily access to clean drinking water and has plans to expand its reach to 1 million people over a period of five years.

Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Director General of the Zayed Sustainability Prize said: "Following the guidance of the UAE's wise leadership and the enduring legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed, the Prize continues to deliver real, meaningful, and long-term impact to numerous communities around the world. This has earned the Prize a global reputation as a catalyst for

change for over a decade, as it has to date, benefited the lives of more than 370 million people."

H.E Al Jaber added, "The hosting of the Zayed Sustainability Prize Awards Ceremony along with the opening of ADSW at Expo 2020 Dubai reinforces the UAE's commitment to sustainable and humanitarian development, which characterises the country's progressive, inclusive model for economic growth."

The Prize's Director General concluded his remarks by underscoring the amplified impact and geographic reach that the Prize has achieved through the UAE-driven 'Beyond2020' humanitarian initiative. Beyond2020 has been donating critical sustainability solutions developed by past winners and finalists to vulnerable communities in various parts of the



*The objective of Global High Schools category is to inspire the young people to become pioneers, innovators and sustainability advocates*



world, and in cooperation with several leading Emirati and international partners.

In the Global High Schools category, six schools, each representing a world region, receive an award and high schools submit project proposals to build or augment a solution they developed for their school or local community. The objective of this category, introduced to the Prize in 2012, is to inspire the young people to become pioneers, innovators and sustainability advocates who will contribute to a more sustainable future.

The recipients of the 2022 awards are Instituto Iberia (Dominican Republic), representing The Americas; Liceo Europeo (Spain), representing Europe & Central Asia; Eastern Mediterranean School (Israel), representing the Middle East & North Africa region; Sayidina Abubakar Secondary School (Uganda), representing Sub-

Saharan Africa; Hira School (Maldives), representing South Asia, and finally, UWC ISAK (Japan) from the East Asia & Pacific region.



## 'Carbon Sequestration Is Crucial To Check Climate Change'

As increased carbon emissions caused by destruction of ecosystems will further contribute to climate change, Abu Dhabi's Blue Carbon Project is a promising initiative to prevent such a situation, according to a top official.

"One major programme we have worked on at the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) is the



Senior official of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi emphasises importance of conservation of the environment and sequestering carbon to achieve sustainable development

Blue Carbon Project. Blue Carbon refers to the ability of coastal vegetation to store carbon. Blue carbon ecosystems, which include mangrove forests, saltmarshes, and seagrass beds, store and sequester carbon in biomass and sediments," said Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary General of the EAD.

"If these ecosystems are destroyed, buried carbon can be released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change and ocean acidification. This means we should strive to always keep these ecosystems intact," she added while addressing a virtual session at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW).

She stressed the importance of conservation of the environment and sequestering carbon to achieve sustainable development, and shared insights and examples of initiatives and projects



*Blue carbon ecosystems, which include mangrove forests, saltmarshes, and seagrass beds, store and sequester carbon in biomass and sediments*



undertaken by the EAD to help preserve mangroves to combat climate change.

The UAE was one of the first countries to recognise the importance of coastal habitats, and mangrove restoration and conservation efforts have been implemented since the 1970s, the official pointed out.

"This country's affinity to the sea led to the initiation of the Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon Demonstration Project in 2012, which was led by the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) together with the EAD and illustrated the full potential of coastal ecosystems in Abu Dhabi," Al Dhaheri explained.

The official noted that the success of the project prompted the initiation of Phase II, known as the National Blue Carbon Project in 2015, which extended the understanding and valuation

aspects of coastal Blue Carbon ecosystem services, particularly in mangroves, in the Northern and Eastern regions of the UAE.

She concluded: "More recently, the UAE Mangroves Annual Carbon Sequestration trial study was completed to assess soil carbon sequestration rates of UAE mangroves. The study found that the mangroves of the UAE sequester carbon at a rate of 0.5 tonnes per hectare per year, in addition to the carbon stocks stored within mangrove tree biomass. These rates are far higher compared to terrestrial soils of arid regions and other reported mangrove soil carbon sequestration rates around the Arabian Peninsula."

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) is a global platform for accelerating the world's sustainable development.



## SRTIP, AUS To Develop Low-Cost Technologies For Generation Of Green Hydrogen

The Sharjah Research, Technology, and Innovation Park (SRTIP) has revealed an ambitious plan to be executed in cooperation with the American University of Sharjah (AUS), to launch an Applied Research Ecosystem for sustainable energy solutions to develop new technologies for generating Green Hydrogen - one of the most promising future-proof technologies.

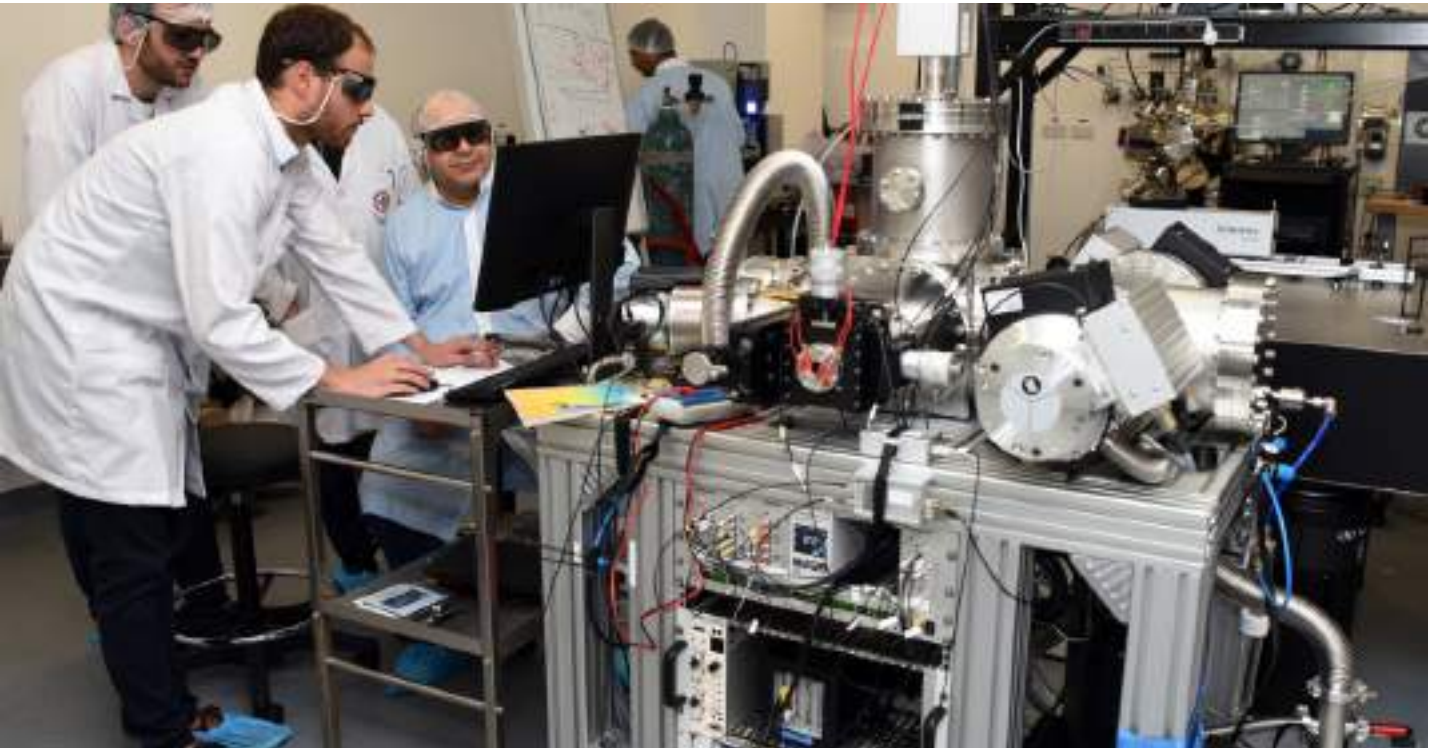


Experiments and research  
are being conducted to  
develop low-cost  
technologies for the  
generation of Green  
Hydrogen and synfuel  
through direct electrolysis  
of sea water

A team of researchers, comprising faculty members and post-graduate students of the Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Program, is conducting unique experiments and research to develop low-cost technologies for the generation of Green Hydrogen and synfuel through direct electrolysis of sea water. The team is also in the process of developing research for producing new and durable materials for electrolyzers, that can help minimize the cost of these processes.

A proposed solution is to convert the generated hydrogen into fuels and chemicals for easier transportation. Green Hydrogen can be converted into carrier molecules e.g., ammonia, methanol and formic acid. AUS scientists are researching the production and use of various hydrogen-carrying molecules in industry, power generation and transportation applications.

*Green Hydrogen is creating promising investment opportunities and has a vital role in global energy transformations in the future*



SRTIP is attracting a new type of companies and entrepreneurs in this discipline to promote investment in technology sectors and set up future companies specialised in the synfuel sector and those specialised in hydrogen generation, storage, distribution, and final use technologies.

"This cooperation with AUS is targeting to transform these research and experiments into an applied reality through the integration between the academia and the private sector under the patronage of the government," said Hussain Al Mahmoudi, CEO of the STRI Park.

"There is a lot of advanced research done by researchers in AUS laboratories and in many sectors and disciplines. Our role at SRTIP is to find appropriate mechanisms to apply and turn such research into investments."

Dr. Mahmoud Anabtawi, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at AUS, stressed the need to address major global challenges in energy and rapid environmental changes and identify alternative sustainable energy sources. "AUS is committed to developing the next generation of experts and researchers in science, engineering and design through its various research programs to find solutions to the effects of these crises. Our partnership with SRTIP offers tremendous opportunities in this regard," he said.

Global reports say that Green Hydrogen can meet up to 25% of the world energy requirements in less than 30 years, with a market value of +\$10 trillion. The global market for Green Hydrogen is expected to reach \$300 billion by 2050, and to help to provide about 400,000 jobs in the renewable energy sector all over the world.



## Jubail Island To Plant 1 Million Mangrove Trees Over The Next Decade

In solidarity with the UAE government and Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency (EAD), Jubail Island Investment Company (JIIC), has announced that it will support the UAE's efforts to expand mangrove forest cover in the emirate by planting one million mangrove trees on the island within the next 10 years.

To date, 350,000 new seedlings have already



A total of 1,000,000 additional new mangroves will be planted in support of the country's ambition to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030

been planted on Jubail Island and over the next decade, a total of 1,000,000 additional new mangroves will be planted in support of the country's ambition to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030; representing an increase from 30 million, which was announced at the COP26 Conference in Glasgow.

The new mangrove initiative will allow the introduction of new water channels to increase natural tidal flow conveyance into the surrounding wetland areas.

Ponds, labelled as 'Biodiversity Genesis Zones', have also been created within the new channel system to improve the flushing of the channels to enhance the overall water quality within the wetland system. These new littoral zones have been shaped adjacent to existing areas of the mangrove forest and saltmarsh and will also create additional habitats for native species.



*The new mangrove initiative will allow the introduction of new water channels to increase natural tidal flow conveyance into the surrounding wetland areas*



In addition to the 350,000 seedlings already planted, Jubail Island has partnered with Etihad Airways to plant another 182,000 mangrove trees in the next five years at Jubail Island.

Mounir Haidar, Managing Director of JIIC, said: "We extend our sincere thanks to the EAD for their efforts to work with partners with the common goal of protecting biodiversity and preserving the quality of life in UAE. At JIIC, we are determined to develop Jubail into a prominent landmark destination that sets the standard for community development which will protect the natural environment and preserve the flora and fauna that inhabits the island.

"Mangrove forests are an important part of the UAE's natural assets, providing a haven for wildlife while also helping to reduce overall carbon emissions, releasing oxygen, reducing

erosion and pollution in our waterways and coasts. It is only right that we support the UAE's forward-thinking initiative by planting 1 million mangrove trees over the course of 10 years right here within Jubail Island.

This planting initiative will enhance Jubail Island's position as a hub of ecotourism in Abu Dhabi as well as being an integral element of our overall landscaping plan for the island, which will be home to more than 10,000 residents when completed in late 2023."

Nestled among the breath-taking natural beauty and rich biodiversity of the mangroves, and covering more than 2,800 hectares, Jubail Island is perfectly situated between Yas and Saadiyat Island and will become Abu Dhabi's leading sanctuary designed to appeal to wellness and nature enthusiasts.

## FAO Hails UAE's Leading Efforts In Sustainable Farming

Dr. Dino Francescutti, the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Subregional Coordinator and representative in the UAE, has hailed the significant efforts of the UAE in enhancing the efficiency of sustainable farming.

On the sidelines of a meeting held by the FAO on January 22 in Abu Dhabi, Dr. Francescutti said



FAO reaffirms commitment  
to strengthening partnership  
with the UAE to help achieve  
the targets of Goal 14 - 'Life  
below water'

that the FAO is determined to strengthen its partnership with the UAE to help achieve the targets of Goal 14 'Life below water' at both the global and national levels.

The FAO's Subregional Office for the GCC states and Yemengathered experts and representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency, the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Environment Agency from Fujairah as well as the Norway Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai to review the progress made towards achieving the targets of Goal 14.

In her introductory speech, Dena Assaf, United Nations Resident Coordinator, said: "Our oceans produce half of the oxygen we breathe, provides livelihoods to billions of people, and plays a most vital role in our food systems. However, our oceans today face most significant challenges

*Fisheries and aquaculture offer many opportunities to reduce hunger and improve nutrition, alleviate poverty, generate economic growth and ensure better use of natural resources*



that threaten their health and ability to sustainable life, both below water and on land."

Dr. Dino Francescutti Motis added, "Wild fish stocks are under-threats of environment degradation, overfishing and climate change, but frequently we do not know exactly to what extent. As the experiences presented by our panelists have revealed, it is essential to collect data and improve our knowledge and understanding of the status of fish stocks. As a first key point, I want to encourage all countries to invest efforts and resources in research, data collection and monitoring of marine habitats and wild stocks."

Panelists also highlighted the effectiveness of fisheries management in preserving wild stock and cited the achievement of Abu Dhabi in managing to recover from overfishing of several emblematic species by implementing fact-based policies.

Panelists also pointed out that climate change may strongly impact the future of oceans and that countries should start working on developing ambitious strategies to tackle this particularly complex challenge. As the oceans, seas and coastal areas provide the world with numerous goods fundamental to human well-being and global food security, fisheries and aquaculture offer many opportunities to reduce hunger and improve nutrition, alleviate poverty, generate economic growth and ensure better use of natural resources, especially with small holders.

"2022 has been declared the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" said Lionel Dabbadie, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, adding that "it is an opportunity to celebrate and empower a sector that may be small in scale, but huge in value".



## Hydrogen Economy Hints At New Global Power Dynamics

Rapid growth of the global hydrogen economy can bring significant geo-economic and geopolitical shifts giving rise to a wave of new interdependencies, according to new analysis by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

'Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation: The Hydrogen Factor' sees hydrogen changing the



IRENA says green hydrogen could disrupt global trade and bilateral energy relations, reshaping the positioning of states with new hydrogen exporters and users emerging

geography of energy trade and regionalising energy relations, hinting at the emergence of new centres of geopolitical influence built on the production and use of hydrogen, as traditional oil and gas trade declines.

Driven by the climate urgency and countries' commitments to net zero, IRENA estimates hydrogen to cover up to 12 per cent of global energy use by 2050. Growing trade and targeted investments in a market dominated by fossil fuels and currently valued at USD 174 billion is likely to boost economic competitiveness and influence the foreign policy landscape with bilateral deals diverging significantly from the hydrocarbon relationships of the 20th century.

"Hydrogen could prove to be a missing link to a climate-safe energy future", Francesco La Camera, Director-General of IRENA said.

*New report estimates that over 30 per cent of hydrogen could be traded across borders by 2050, a higher share than natural gas today*



“Hydrogen is clearly riding on the renewable energy revolution with green hydrogen emerging as a game changer for achieving climate neutrality without compromising industrial growth and social development.”

“It is green hydrogen that will bring new and diverse participants to the market, diversify routes and supplies and shift power from the few to the many. With international co-operation, the hydrogen market could be more democratic and inclusive, offering opportunities for developed and developing countries alike.”

IRENA estimates that over 30 per cent of hydrogen could be traded across borders by 2050, a higher share than natural gas today. Countries that have not traditionally traded energy are establishing bilateral energy relations around hydrogen.

Cross-border hydrogen trade is set to grow considerably with over 30 countries and regions planning for active commerce already today. Some countries that expect to be importers are already deploying dedicated hydrogen diplomacy such as Japan and Germany. Fossil fuel exporters increasingly consider clean hydrogen an attractive way to diversify their economies, for example, Australia, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. However, broader economic transition strategies are required as hydrogen will not compensate for losses in oil and gas revenues.

The technical potential for hydrogen production significantly exceeds estimated global demand. Countries most able to generate cheap renewable electricity will be best placed to produce competitive green hydrogen. While countries such as Chile, Morocco, and Namibia are net



energy importers today, they are set to emerge as green hydrogen exporters but many countries will need technology transfers, infrastructure and investment at scale.

The geopolitics of clean hydrogen will likely play out in different stages. The report sees the 2020s as a big race for technology leadership. But demand is expected to only take off in the mid-2030s. By that time, green hydrogen will cost-compete with fossil-fuel hydrogen globally, poised to happen even earlier in countries like China, Brazil and India. Green hydrogen was already affordable in Europe during the 2021 spike in natural gas prices. Refurbishing natural gas pipelines is likely to further boost demand and facilitate hydrogen trade.

Countries with ample renewable potential could become sites of green industrialisation, using

their potential to attract energy-intensive industries. Furthermore, having a stake in the hydrogen value chain can boost economic competitiveness. The manufacturing of equipment like electrolyzers and fuel cells in particular could drive business. China, Japan and Europe have already developed a head start in the production, but innovation will shape the current manufacturing landscape further.

Green hydrogen may strengthen energy independence, security, and resilience by cutting import dependency and price volatility and boosting flexibility of the energy system. However, the raw materials needed for hydrogen and renewable technologies could draw attention to material security. Shortages and price fluctuations could reverberate through supply chains and negatively affect cost and revenues.



# ADGM Becomes First “Carbon Neutral” International Financial Centre In The World

Abu Dhabi Global Market, the leading International Financial Centre in Abu Dhabi, has announced its achievement of a “carbon-neutrality” status by offsetting its 2021 carbon emissions as an organisation, thereby becoming the first IFC in the world to be “carbon neutral.”

This development came following ADGM’s recent

UAE NEWS



decision to transform the 4th edition of Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Forum (ADSFF) into a carbon-neutral platform and event in the UAE.

To obtain its carbon-neutral position, ADGM purchased and retired all its 2021 carbon credits via the Rimba Raya project, one of the highest-rated REDD 1+ projects globally, based in Indonesia. This initiative was facilitated by AirCarbon Exchange, a digital carbon trading exchange based in ADGM Square.

At his opening keynote address at the 4th ADSFF, H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of ADGM, said: “ADGM is glad to be the first international financial centre in the world to be carbon-neutral which dovetails well with its ongoing efforts to provide an innovative financial platform and progressive, holistic ecosystem that bolster Abu Dhabi and the UAE’s long-term economic

development and sustainable growth. We will continue to foster meaningful collaborations with local and global businesses and play our part in supporting the UAE’s Net-Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative, which is in line with the country’s Principles of the 50 blueprint.”

The ADSFF is an extension of the annual Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and a strategic platform by the UAE financial sector to accelerate sustainable financing and investments and build up a more sustainable economy and future.

At this year’s Forum, ADGM unveiled the ADGM Sustainable Finance Platform - designed to promote and accelerate sustainable finance activities and decision-making among investors and stakeholders by providing them with real-time access to UAE and regional sustainable finance market data.

## Chevrolet's 2022 Bolt EUV: Promise Of An All-Electric Future

The new, all-electric 2022 Bolt EUV, and the redesigned 2022 Bolt EV have expanded the electric vehicle portfolio of Chevrolet.

Distinguished by unique exterior designs, including an SUV-like proportion for the new Bolt EUV, each is propelled by the proven technology that helped make the Bolt EV the industry's first affordable, long-range electric



Chevrolet grows EV lineup with 2022 Bolt EUV and Bolt EV; all-electric Bolt EUV is first Chevy to offer Super Cruise

vehicle — and both are part of General Motors' plan to launch 30 new EVs globally by 2025.

The Bolt EV has led the charge in putting more drivers in electric vehicles and will also be the first Chevrolet vehicle to offer Super Cruise, the industry's first true hands-free driver assistance system for enabled roads.

Chevrolet is also making charging more convenient with a new Dual Level Charge Cord, which, for many customers, will eliminate the need to purchase a separate charger for their home. It has a changeable plug that allows the customer to plug into a standard 120-volt three-prong outlet for Level 1 charging and a 240-volt outlet for Level 2 charging up to 7.2 kilowatts.

The new Dual Level Charge Cord is standard with Bolt EUV and is available for Bolt EV. For

*The Bolt EUV is not only powered by the latest technology but also leads the way with enhanced safety and connectivity*



Additional Chevy SUV styling cues on the EUV include a center crease line that runs from the front fascia through the hood and seamless horizontal body lines that give a sense of motion even when the vehicle is standing still. Standard roof rails also reinforce the SUV aesthetic.

For Bolt EV, the design updates include a new, more upright front fascia and new front and rear lighting signatures — including the signature high-eye daytime running lights in front.

Inside, both vehicles feature new instrument panels, vehicle controls and seats, with a 10.2-inch-diagonal infotainment<sup>4</sup> color touchscreen and integrated climate controls common to both for clean, intuitive interfaces. The infotainment screen features real-time displays with more details available on the 8-inch-diagonal reconfigurable color gauge cluster.

There is also a new, electronic gear shift design that uses pull toggles and push buttons to free up more interior space. For increased regenerative braking, there is even a new one-pedal driving button that keeps the system active between drive cycles.

maximum Level 2 charging speed, both vehicles are now capable of 11 kW Level 2 charging, but separate charging equipment (not included) is required.

### **Design distinctions**

The new Bolt EUV and redesigned Bolt EV share an architecture, but their designs are unique. No exterior sheet metal parts are shared between the two vehicles and the EUV is approximately 6 inches longer.

Bolt EUV brings its own character to the growing small SUV segment with a modern, muscular design and a roomier interior and ample rear legroom. It also features a distinctive front-end with a sculpted grille and signature lighting, including standard LED headlamps and Chevy's brand-specific, high-eye daytime running lamps, which double as sequential turn-signal indicators.







### Super Cruise and additional technologies

The 2022 Bolt EUV is the first Chevrolet offered with Super Cruise, the industry's first true hands-free driver assistance technology for enabled roads.

Super Cruise employs many advanced technology features, including a Driver Attention System and precision LiDAR map data. The Driver Attention System uses a small camera located on the top of the steering column and works with infrared lights to determine where the driver is looking whenever Super Cruise is in operation.

If the Driver Attention System detects the driver's gaze has turned away from the road ahead for too long, the steering wheel light bar will prompt the driver to return their attention to the road. If the system determines continued inattentiveness, it will use visible and audible

alerts to notify the driver to take back control of the wheel. Super Cruise is available on Bolt EUV Premier.

Chevy Safety Assist<sup>5</sup> is standard on both Bolt EUV and Bolt EV and includes safety and advanced driver assistance technologies, such as Automatic Emergency Braking, Forward Collision Alert, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, Following Distance Indicator, IntelliBeam and Front Pedestrian Braking.

Available driver assistance technologies for both vehicles include Rear Cross Traffic Alert<sup>5</sup>, HD Surround Vision<sup>5</sup> and Adaptive Cruise Control<sup>5</sup>. HD Rear Vision Camera<sup>5</sup> is standard on both Bolt EUV and Bolt EV.

Additional connectivity technologies offered in the Bolt EUV and Bolt EV include new wireless Apple CarPlay<sup>6</sup> and Android Auto<sup>7</sup> phone

*The 2022 Bolt EUV is the first Chevrolet offered with Super Cruise, the industry's first true hands-free driver assistance technology for enabled roads*



projection capability, as well as wireless phone charging<sup>8</sup> that is standard on Bolt EUV and available on Bolt EV, and an available 4G LTE Wi-Fi® Hotspot<sup>9</sup>.

Also, new In-Vehicle Apps<sup>10</sup> allow users to browse a list of available apps such as Alexa<sup>11</sup>, Spotify<sup>12</sup>, The Weather Channel and many more, and install them on the infotainment system<sup>4</sup>.

With Alexa, drivers can use simple voice commands, while keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel. Alexa can play music, get directions, place calls, listen to audiobooks, control your smart home<sup>13</sup>, access tens of thousands of Alexa skills and more.

### **Proven propulsion system**

Powering the Bolt EUV and Bolt EV is the proven battery technology that made Bolt EV the

industry's first affordable long-range electric vehicle. An advanced 65 kilowatt-hour, lithium-ion battery pack helps the Bolt EV offer up to a EPA-estimated 259 miles of range (416 km) on a full charge<sup>14</sup>. With the slightly larger Bolt EUV, the EPA-estimated range on a full charge is 247 miles (398 km)<sup>14</sup>.

The battery system features Chevy's proven active thermal management system, which uses coolant to maintain the battery at its ideal operating temperature. This technology is a primary enabler of Chevrolet's 8-year/100,000-mile limited battery system warranty<sup>15</sup>.

Additionally, standard DC fast public charging capability enables the Bolt EV to add up to 100 miles (160 km) of range in 30 minutes and 95 miles (152 km) for Bolt EUV<sup>16</sup>.

## Global Community Urges Energy Transition Action After COP26

Ministers, heads of international organisations, and private actors welcomed commitments made in Glasgow but stressed the need for urgent action at a high-level meeting convened by IRENA during its recently concluded 12th Assembly.

Francesco La Camera, IRENA Director-General, and Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister of Foreign



High-level panel at 12th General Assembly of IRENA urge countries to ensure promises on energy related emission reductions are kept

Affairs, El Salvador, and President of IRENA Assembly, opened the high-level virtual event where panelists urged countries to ensure promises on energy related emission reductions are kept.

In his opening remarks, La Camera reminded speakers of the Assembly's 'from commitment to action' theme. "Even if every commitment made at the HLDE and COP26 is fulfilled, we are falling short of what is needed to achieve. We can no longer continue with business as usual if we are to live in a world that is safe, resilient and prosperous for all."

Alexandra Tinoco said that the ambitious NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) submitted by nations at the COP26 confirm that all regions share the same sense of imperativeness but unfortunately these commitments are not enough to achieve the



*UAE was the first country in the MENA region to promise net zero by 2050 at COP26*



climate goals. “Further measures are required without delay. The transition of energy systems towards renewable, clean energy is inevitable,” she added.

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, called on governments and the private sector to form coalitions to help energy transition in developing countries. “What’s needed is phasing out coal, putting a price on carbon, ending fossil fuel subsidies and ensuring support for a just transition,” he said.

Frans Timmermans, Vice President of the European Union, said international climate finance is key to managing overall climate risk and stressed the need to make significant cuts through stronger NDCs by the biggest emitters.

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, said that coalition of public and

private finance is crucial to scale up investments that support the most vulnerable nations and enable a just transition. “The SDGs are built on the principles of leaving no one behind. To close the energy gap by 2030 and provide energy access to 260 million people, we must work together with renewed urgency,” she added.

Speaking on the vulnerability of developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Environment for Antigua and Barbuda, said it is time for the developed countries to keep their promise on climate finance.

UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment Mariam Almheiri said the country has been a leader in accelerating energy transition and the first country in the MENA region to promise net zero by 2050, at COP26.

## New Agreement To Implement Clean Energy Across Assets

Aldar Properties entered into a clean energy agreement with Emirates Water and Electricity Company (EWEC), a leading company in the integrated coordination of planning, purchasing and supply of water and electricity across UAE. Through the agreement, 100 per cent of Aldar's owned and managed operating assets will be powered by EWEC's clean energy sources for up to five years, in a



100 per cent of Aldar's  
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move that aims to promote the adoption of clean energy and support the expansion of decarbonisation in the real estate sector.

At present, scope 2 emissions, associated with the purchase of electricity from the grid, represent the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions at Aldar's real estate assets and this agreement will reduce those emissions and support decarbonisation across the company's portfolio. The clean energy purchase from EWEC is monitored and validated via Clean Energy Certificates registered by EWEC in a scheme launched by the Abu Dhabi Department of Energy to enable Abu Dhabi companies to validate claims of producing and consuming renewable or clean electricity as part of their efforts to achieve sustainability goals.

EWEC is one of the key parties enabling the implementation of Abu Dhabi's Clean Energy



*Buildings account for 37 per cent of today's global CO2 emissions when both operational and embodied emissions of materials are considered*



Certificate scheme, acting as Single Registrant and auction operator to establish a primary market for this new instrument, conducting auctions every quarter that any organisation can participate in.

Chief Financial and Sustainability Officer, Greg Fewer commented: "Buildings account for 37 per cent of today's global CO2 emissions when both operational and embodied emissions of materials are taken into account. Sustainable buildings are one of the most effective means of tackling this global challenge and we are proud to make this milestone move with EWEK as our partner."

Francois Brice, Commercial Executive Director at EWEK, said: "We are excited to see Aldar taking the lead on reaching Zero Carbon by certifying the origin of the power consumed from the grid through the clean energy certificate scheme,

joining other major energy, industrial, healthcare, and commercial entities taking positive action to reduce carbon emissions. Aldar moved swiftly to participate in the scheme, becoming the first real estate development, management and investment company and one of the larger market participants."

Aldar continues to make significant progress on its sustainability goals, scoring higher than all UAE listed real estate companies. Aldar was ranked third among all listed companies on Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, and increased its ESG ratings within two major global benchmarks, Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) and Sustainalytics, driven by a focus on minimising its environmental impact and the launch of various social impact initiatives as part of its broader ESG strategy.



## A Model Of Sustainable, Good Living: Helsinki

Helsinki, the capital city of Finland is home to 1.4 million people. It is the largest city in the metropolitan area of Finland and often known as the sustainable capital of the country.

Nature is strongly felt in everyday life in Helsinki. The residential areas surrounded by parks, forests and the sea remind visitors and residents of their everyday choices as contributors to



Ecological thinking is strongly present in everyday life in Helsinki, and the city places great emphasis on encouraging environmentally friendly lifestyles

environmentally friendly development. The development of public transportation, waste recycling and decreasing unnecessary consumption are all key components for making Helsinki into a city of smart and sustainable living.

Helsinki is committed to promoting a more sustainable way of life – for everyone. The city understands that true impact can only happen when a group big and diverse enough becomes part of a larger change through their own actions.

Helsinki places great emphasis on encouraging environmentally friendly lifestyles. An atmosphere that motivates less consumption, construction efforts that consider sustainable development, and ambitious climate aims make Helsinki a model city of sustainable development.

# *The goal of Helsinki City Strategy 2021–2025 is to create a carbon-neutral Helsinki by 2030*



The goal of the Helsinki City Strategy 2021–2025 is to create a carbon-neutral Helsinki by 2030. An open tool has been devised to track progress towards this goal. The tool gives information about the subcategories of traffic, construction, the use of buildings, consumption, procurement, sharing and circular economy initiatives, and the set of so-called “smart & clean” actions.

When this goal is reached, operations taking place in Helsinki will no longer warm up the planet. Significant progress has already been made with continuous climate work. In 2020, Helsinki’s emissions were 33 percent smaller than those in 1990, even though the number of residents had increased by 150,000. Per resident, the emissions were calculated to be approximately 49 percent smaller.

## **Energy Efficient Buildings**

The heating of buildings causes more than half of Helsinki’s emissions. The greatest emission reduction potential lies in energy renovations. Very strict and binding energy efficiency requirements have been set for Helsinki’s own building stock in both new constructions and renovations. In addition, local production of renewable energy and locally produced heat and power are being increased.

In the Helsinki City Strategy there are several goals through which the city contributes to the global promotion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Helsinki promotes the Agenda 2030 goals through, among other things, the goal of carbon neutrality, the prevention of exclusion, the mobility program and the promotion of equality and inclusion.

Helsinki was the second city in the world and the first European city to commit to the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Households and private individuals are encouraged to make ecological everyday choices, but climate-related actions are also being taken by the city on a larger scale. Helsinki’s current climate goals are significantly more ambitious than the rest of Finland or the EU region.

The City’s actions are wide ranging and thereby also wide reaching in their impact, as the requirements apply to all the City’s office premises and service buildings, as well as to all residential buildings operated by Helsingin kaupungin asunnot Oy (Heka) – a Helsinki City Housing Company.

The buildings owned by the City hold 11% of the emission reduction potential of the entire building stock of Helsinki. The majority of the



measures to reduce emissions are financially attractive to building owners in the long term.

### More green solutions

- Providing advisory services to support Helsinki housing companies' energy renovations and increased use of renewable energy
- Steering district planning more towards carbon neutrality than before
- Steering people towards energy-efficient solutions and renewable energy through Building Control Services
- Improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy in the City's service and residential buildings
- Taking the entire carbon footprint of construction into account and promoting wooden construction

- Replacing outdoor lights with more energy-efficient alternatives

- Making provisions for emission-free thermal and wind energy

### Traffic Solutions

One fifth of Helsinki's emissions comes from traffic. Actions taken by the city to curb the impact of transport on the climate include:

- Promoting the use of electric cars by means such as extending the charging network
- Reducing emissions from heavy traffic with equipment choices and environmental criteria
- Reducing emissions from port operations
- Taking part in creating follow-up surveys regarding the pricing system for vehicle traffic
- Extending parking fee zones



*In 2020, Helsinki's emissions were 33 percent smaller than those in 1990*



- Promoting walking, cycling and the use of public transport
- Implementing new mobility services
- Reducing distances with dense urban and traffic planning

### **Energy Production**

The development programme of Helen Ltd, the energy company owned by the city of Helsinki, is responsible for emission reductions in energy production. The use of coal will be stopped entirely. The Hanasaari coal plant will be closed in 2023 and the Salmisaari coal plant will be closed in 2024.

Helsinki wants to serve as a platform for new, sustainable and innovative solutions and the international Helsinki Energy Challenge was launched in the years 2020 and 2021. The

challenge sought solutions that would enable the city to be heated sustainably in the coming decades without coal and with as little biomass as possible. Helsinki's goal is to reduce emissions from its own procurements with environmental criteria regarding aspects such as construction materials, food services and ICT equipment. Furthermore, the City creates platforms and opportunities for developing Smart & Clean business activities.



## Singapore Keen To Partner With UAE On Low-Carbon Technologies

Singapore is keen to collaborate with the UAE through new projects and solutions, as well as the exchange of expertise to achieve a low-carbon economy, said Grace Fu Hai Yien, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment of the Republic of Singapore.

During a visit to the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), she emphasised that the UAE has



Singapore Minister expresses confidence in UAE's ability to tackle some of the pressing issues related to climate change and global warming

many ideas and strategies to decarbonise its economy and "that's exactly where Singapore is heading as well".

"In this journey of decarbonisation, there will be many new opportunities and technologies which need to be tested and piloted. So, I'm here to explore the opportunities for us to work together in this new phase of sustainable development," Minister Grace Fu said.

One of the areas of interest for Singapore is sustainable food. "We are looking at low-carbon, high-efficiency production because resources are very scarce. We want to reduce our water usage, our energy usage and get the best system up there, so we can produce food sustainably," she said, adding that Singapore is developing a new area, similar to the UAE's Food Tech Valley, to meet its food security goals.



*Sustainable food, climate change and carbon credit solutions, and net-zero strategy are some of the key areas of interest for Singapore*



Meanwhile, the Lim Chu Kang area in Singapore will be developed into a high-tech agri-food zone that can raise food production in a sustainable and resource-efficient manner, with an aim to strengthen Singapore's food security.

"We are having discussions with the UAE Minister of Climate Change and the Environment to come up with some projects and maybe pilot some technologies," the minister said.

Another area of interest is the UAE's net-zero strategy. Last year, the UAE announced its commitment to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, thus becoming the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to make such a commitment. Meanwhile, Singapore aspires to halve its emissions from its peak by 2050, with a view to achieving net zero emissions as soon as viable in the second half of the century.

"This transition towards renewable energy and also to look at how we can decarbonise as societies, give me a lot of inspiration," she said.

The Minister also voiced confidence in the UAE's ability to tackle some of the pressing issues related to climate change and global warming during the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) which the UAE will host in 2023.

One of those issues is building up a carbon credit market of high standard. "The compliance market, airlines, maritime, shipping, are all sectors in need of carbon credit solutions, in addition to new technologies. I think there are immense opportunities for discussion and I think it will be the leadership of COP27 and the leadership of COP28 that will guide us towards that future," she concluded.



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Answers: 1) TRANSPORT 2) SUSTAIN 3) VIRUS 4) FORESTS 5) WILDLIFE  
6) VEGANISM 7) PLASTICS 8) GROUNDWATER

Word  
Search

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EXTINCT

ELECTRICITY

DISPOSAL

ENERGY

CLIMATE

FLORA

ARCTIC

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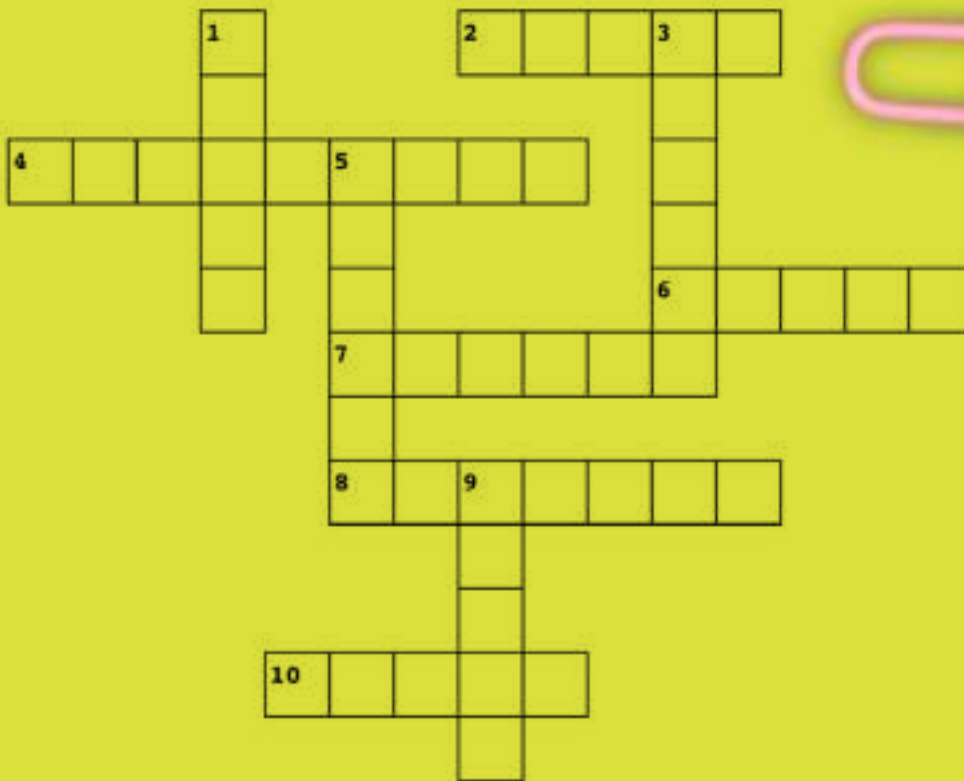
WARMING

PRODUCE

DEFORESTATION

RECYCLE

# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

2. All the animal life in a particular region or period
4. Way of living
6. Use again
7. A shelter from danger or hardship
8. A shortage of rainfall
10. The (usually elliptical) path described by one celestial body in its revolution about another

## Down

1. A large body of water constituting a principal part of the hydrosphere
3. World of plants, animals, landscapes etc
5. Very hot and dry climate
9. A fertile tract in a desert

Answers: 1) Ocean 2) Fauna 3) Nature 4) Lifestyle 5) Torrid 6) Reuse 7) Refuge 8) Drought 9) Oasis 10) Orbit

## WORD OF THE DAY:

**DROUGHT**

A drought is when there is a lack of precipitation over an extended period of time, usually a season or more, resulting in a water shortage for some activity, group, or environmental sector. Its impacts result from the interplay between the natural event (less precipitation than expected) and the demand people place on water supply. Human activities can exacerbate the impacts of drought.

Droughts do not have a clear beginning and end like tornadoes or hurricanes or floods. It starts and ends slowly and often we don't see the effects of drought for weeks, months, or even years. This is why we often say that drought is a creeping natural hazard.

Drought has many causes. It can be caused by not receiving rain or snow over a period. We know that changes in the wind patterns that move clouds and moisture through the atmosphere can cause a place to not receive its normal amount of rain or snow over a long period of time.

If you live in a place where most of the water you use comes from a river, a drought in your area can be caused by places upstream from you not receiving enough moisture. There would be less water in the river for you and other people who live along the river to use.

People can also play a big role in drought. If we use too much water during times of normal rainfall, we might not have enough water when a drought happens.

Scientists expect that because of global climate change, droughts will be triggered. Overall, they state that global warming will result in more rain falling all over the world, but areas that are prone to drought will increase as well.

**Types of Droughts:**

- Meteorological drought happens when there is a prolonged time that an area receives less than its average precipitation. Meteorological drought usually comes before other kinds of drought.
- Agricultural drought affects crop production or the ecology of a distinct area.
- Hydrological drought happens when the water in reserves like aquifers, lakes, and reservoirs drop below their normal amount.







## WORLD WETLANDS DAY FEB 2ND 2022

World Wetlands Day, celebrated annually on 2 February, aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet.

Wetlands are ecosystems where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life. A broad definition of wetlands includes both freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystems such as all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fishponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and saltpans.

Though they cover only around 6 per cent of the Earth's land surface, 40 per cent of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands. Wetland biodiversity matters for our health, our food supply, for tourism and for jobs. Wetlands are vital for humans, for other ecosystems and for our climate, providing essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, including flood control and water purification. More than a billion people across the world depend on wetlands for their livelihoods – that's about one in eight people on Earth.

Wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests and are Earth's most threatened ecosystem. In just 50 years — since 1970 — 35% of the world's wetlands have been lost. Human activities that lead to loss of wetlands include drainage and infilling for agriculture and construction, pollution, overfishing and overexploitation of resources, invasive species and climate change.

Wetlands are a natural solution to the era-defining global threat of climate change. They absorb carbon dioxide and this helps slow global heating and reduces pollution. Hence, wetlands have often been referred to as the "Kidneys of the Earth". Wetlands also provide a buffer against the impacts of floods, droughts, hurricanes and tsunamis, and build resilience to climate change.

"Wetlands Action for People and Nature" is the theme for 2022 highlighting the importance of actions to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for human and planetary health.

## INTERNATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY - FEB 27TH 2022

Arguably the most iconic symbol of the Arctic, the polar bear inadvertently illustrates the dangers of global warming. It is the rising of temperatures and an increase of greenhouse gases which impact the polar bear the most.

Celebrated annually on February 27th, the International Polar Bear Day aims to raise awareness of the plight of this most threatened species. By drawing parallels between the remote, icy make-up of the Arctic and the global climate overall – it better our own understanding and strengthens our connection to the polar bear and its home.

### Facts about Polar Bears!

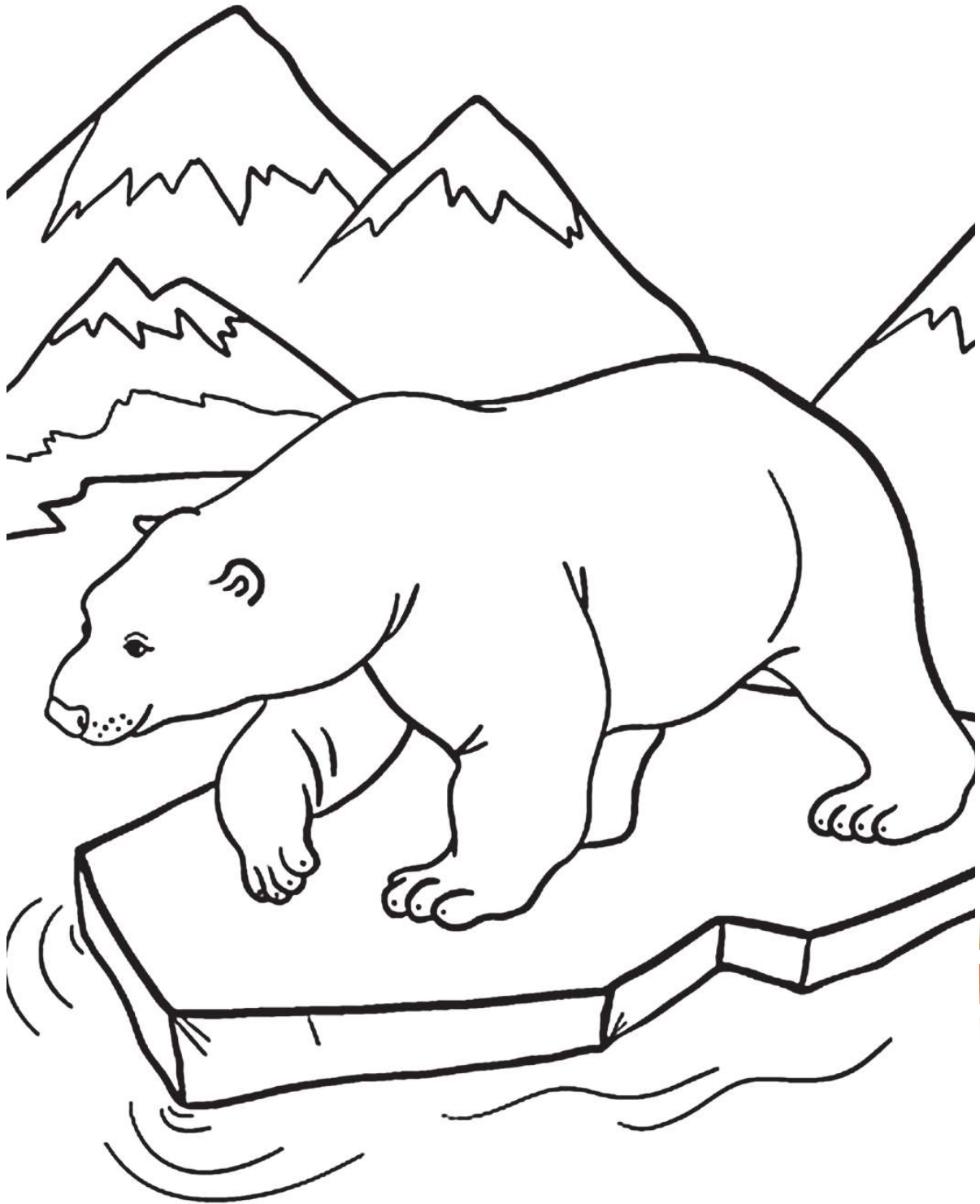
- Polar bears aren't really white, they have black skin beneath all of their masses of fur, which is actually see through. They only appear white because their fur reflects the light.
- Polar bears are brilliant in water! They have big paws, which they use to paddle through those icy deeps.
- On land, a polar bear can reach speeds of up to 25 mph (40 kph) when sprinting short distances, to catch their prey.
- According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) male polar bears can weigh up to 800kg and are about twice the size of females.

### What can you do to help?

#### Things to Do...

- ☒ Don't let tap water run when not in use! \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- ☒ Clean up after yourself \_ \_
- ☒ Carry a water bottle \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- ☒ Use metal or paper straws \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- ☒ Reuse plastic bags \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

COLOUR ME!



## New Era Of On-Demand Green Energy Power Comes To The UAE

A new era of on-demand clean energy has been launched in the UAE - bringing renewable power to where it is needed through a new joint venture, HYPR.

This Joint Venture is formed by the leading on-demand refuelling and vehicle services company - CAFU, the largest regional distributed solar energy company - Siraj Power, and climate

UAE NEWS



impact investor - Creek. HYPR will launch its on-demand energy systems using innovative battery storage across UAE. This innovation is the region's first solution using transportable lithium ion batteries providing customers with a reliable and cost-effective alternative to polluting diesel generators.

The battery storage systems used by HYPR will be developed by SirajPower, a Creek portfolio company with over 200 solar sites across the UAE. The new company will also benefit from CAFU's on demand customer-centric approach combined with its unique routing capabilities and operational expertise in optimizing B2B deliveries.

HYPR will contribute to the UAE's ongoing efforts to tackle the effects of climate change by offering a more sustainable energy source.

Rashid Al-Ghurair, Founder & CEO, CAFU said, "Bringing together CAFU, SirajPower and Creek, HYPR will bring a new innovative on-demand solution to the market that provides a green and sustainable energy source, thereby committing to meaningful action to help enable a carbon neutral future. Collaborations such as HYPR will accelerate sustainable future to become a reality today."

Mohammed Abdulghaffar Hussain, Chairman of Creek and Co-Founder of SirajPower, said: "This JV will address some of the recurring challenges in the construction and industrial sectors when connection to the grid is not a viable option. SirajPower's successful Solar-as-a-Service model will be adapted to HYPR's On-demand Solar Energy Systems and will support businesses through their transition to clean energy."



## Italy's Green Universe Unveils Plans For Greener And More Sustainable UAE

Italy-based Green Universe, which consists of a group of companies specialized in green economy and environmental issues, has launched its novel initiative "Creative Solutions for a Sustainable Green Connection of UAE" at Expo 2020 Dubai and outlined in detail the environmental, economic, health and social effects of the benefits generated from implementing the initiative.



New initiative 'Creative  
Solutions for a Sustainable  
Green Connection of UAE'  
aims to help countries  
create sustainable  
environmental systems  
and consolidate the quality  
of life of their communities

The prominent attendees included Ermal Dredha, Ambassador of Albania in the UAE; Xhabir Hamiti, Ambassador of Kosovo in the UAE; and Alban Fetahu, Commissioner of Kosovo Pavilion Expo 2020 Dubai.

Mark Nikolli, Founder and CEO of Green Universe, stated that the objectives of the initiative include laying the foundations for an integrated action plan to increase the use of clean fuels and improving the methods of producing clean energy from renewable resources in a way that supports efficient energy consumption.

He pointed out that the objectives of the initiative intersect with both the 'Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan' and the 'Abu Dhabi Vision 2030' in terms of setting a legal and regulatory framework for urban planning processes in line with the best global environmental practices

*Green Universe consists of a group of companies specialized in green economy and environmental issues*



and adding green areas comprised by bamboo, enhancing and preserving the surrounding ecosystems and dedicating healthy lifestyles of high quality to the population.

Nikolli also stated that the initiative is the outcome of cooperation with major international universities specialized in environmental sustainability such as the Politecnico di Milano, well-known in Italy and Europe for its advanced research in ecosystems, and the University of Turin, whose Department of Science of Life and Biology of Systems is one of the most active and influential environmental research centres.

A number of specialists including Dr. Francesco Pittau, professor of Politecnico Di Milano and Dr. Lindita Bande from UAE University reviewed the scientific bases of the initiative i.e. planting a green belt of giant tropical bamboo trees on the

roads linking Abu Dhabi and Dubai and creating a certain number of forests surrounding selected residential communities.

Dr. Fabrizio Pecci from the Italian Bamboo Consortium, partner of Green Universe said that the bamboo tree differs from other plants by its ability to absorb 275 tonnes of carbon dioxide per square hectare and to produce oxygen by 35 per cent more than other plant options.

Apart from its multiple uses in construction processes and wide use in manufacturing industries such as paper and clothing, bamboo can also be used as wind barriers and noise barriers if it is planted on both sides of the road. As a fireproof barrier, it plays a key role in enhancing soil fertility, air purification and positive environmental impact.

## 'Healthy Soils For A Healthy People And Planet'

Reversing soil degradation is vital if we want to feed a growing global population, protect biodiversity and help address the planet's climate crisis, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, told a meeting of agriculture ministers in Berlin on January 28.

As much as 95 percent of global food production



FAO Director-General addresses Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin; calls for reversal of soil degradation

depends on soil. However, unsustainable agricultural practices, the overexploitation of natural resources and a growing population are putting increased pressure on our soils.

After oceans, soils are the largest reservoirs of carbon and play a crucial role in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of the climate crisis. The degradation of the world's soils has already released up to 78 gigatonnes of carbon into the atmosphere. According to the Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration map, soils could sequester up to 2.05 petagrams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year, thus offsetting as much as 34 percent of greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural land.

Soils are full of life as well, holding an estimated 25% of global biodiversity. "Our growing population requires more food that is nutritious and safe, free of contaminants and pathogens,"



*It is estimated that by 2050, soil erosion could lead to a 10 percent loss in crop production and remove 75 billion tons of soils*



FAO's Director-General said. "Countries must make stronger commitments towards sustainable soil management," Qu added.

Over 70 agriculture ministers from around the globe exchanged thoughts and ideas at the annual Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin.

### **Degradation reversal**

FAO's latest State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture has already warned us that our agricultural systems - the interconnect complex web of soil, land and water - are at "breaking point."

Soil erosion is the biggest threat. It is estimated that by 2050, soil erosion could lead to a 10 percent loss in crop production and remove 75 billion tons of soils. Soil pollution is also an issue. It knows no borders and compromises the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe.

The excessive or inappropriate use of agrochemicals is one cause of the problem.

Another challenge comes from salinization, which affects 160 million hectares of cropland worldwide and every year renders 1.5 million hectares unproductive.

According to FAO's Director-General, countries must make stronger commitments, while greater investments - particularly for supporting the adoption of sustainable soil management practices - and the recarbonization of soils are also a priority, along with land tenure security.

"FAO is committed to healthy soils and to supporting sustainable soil management at all levels for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all, leaving no one behind," Qu said.

## Phase 1 of Yiti Integrated Tourism Development Launched

**D**iamond Developers, the mastermind behind The Sustainable City brand, the first fully operational sustainable community in the Middle East has entered into a development partnership agreement with the Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group), the executive arm of the Sultanate for tourism development. The agreement entails the development of first phase of the Yiti Tourism



The new agreement underlines the commitment of Diamond Developers towards building carbon-neutral and resilient communities

masterplan with an investment value of approximately AED 3.7 billion.

In conjunction with this partnership, a joint venture called Sustainable Development and Investment Company (SDIC) S.A.O.C has been established to execute this phase.

“OMRAN Group’s partnership with Diamond Developers marks a major milestone in Yiti Development as we begin the first phase of this integrated urban destination in Muscat. The signing attests to OMRAN Group’s strategic vision in expanding the nation’s tourism sector and its pivotal role as a catalyst and enabler of multi-fold, lucrative investment opportunities in the country in realising the ambitious goals of Oman Vision 2040 and supporting the delivery of the National Tourism Strategy,” said Hashil Bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of OMRAN Group.

*The Yiti masterplan is one of Omran's largest integrated urban destinations*



"We are delighted to collaborate with Diamond Developers as they are one of the leading and reputable companies in building sustainable cities in the region. Their approach is in line with our vision of adopting the foundations of placemaking and harnessing sustainability in all aspects of the development," Al Mahrouqi added.

The first phase of the Yiti project, which covers 900,000 square meters, will focus on constructing a fully sustainable mixed-use project, the Sultanate's first of its kind community that promotes sustainable living. The first phase will include green public spaces, residences, tourism, commercial, and educational facilities, all with well-balanced and integrated components. Visitors and residents alike will enjoy a variety of unique lifestyle experiences, including restaurants, cafés, shops, and an equestrian center, a farm along with other distinctive

components that create a meaningful green-living environment. The two sides announced that full details of the project will be revealed at the official launch ceremony later this year.

Commenting on the occasion, Engineer Faris Saeed, Chairman of Diamond Developers said, "We are very excited to join hands with OMRAN to execute our first project in Oman, and to work together on preserving the Sultanate's rich natural environmental resources in accordance with the best global green practices. Over the past decade, we have gained and harnessed invaluable knowledge from our working proof-of-concept, which we are leveraging to set new standards for building sustainable and resilient cities with the highest sustainable standards to achieve a carbon-neutral future that also suits the local culture, environment, and economy."



## Microplastics: An Emerging Health Issue In The Near Future

When wealthy countries ship off plastic waste to poor countries for recycling and disposal, they believe they have got rid of a problem. But when these are incinerated or end up in landfills, it finds its way back via air or ocean currents.

When they are released to the environment, microplastics can easily fly up to the troposphere from any location and will eventually reach the sea where ocean currents carry it to countries very far from the source.



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

Microplastics, which are mainly 5 – 20 micrometers in length, can readily reach the human and animal lungs via breathing, leading to health complications. They can also be ingested by fish and other edible animals and reach the human body through food. Studies say even drinking water can be polluted with microplastics.

There are no shortcut solutions to mitigate the health repercussions of plastic pollution. Countries need to get more serious about the plastic industry and the culture of plastic consumption. Raising educational awareness will help in the long-term. New national and international legislations are required to change course and fill in the gaps of the plastic waste problem.

The world should concentrate on cutting down plastic consumption substantially. Large amounts of plastics are manufactured and often end up in waste without being used. We can, for example, cut off the single use plastic for good and manufacture more reusable and recyclable plastic. This will reduce more than 30% of plastic waste. We also need more efficient technologies for proper disposal of nonrecyclable plastic waste.

Without serious steps to deal with this serious global issue, life on earth is at stake.



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