



APRIL
2024
ISSUE 230

Society & Environment

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



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Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a
green home





Chairman's Message



**Prof. Mohammed
bin Fahad**
Executive Editor

The UAE's commitment to combating climate change and fostering a greener, more resilient future on the principles of equity, inclusivity and accessibility bore fruit when President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced the launch of a USD 30 billion climate fund called ALTÉRRRA, which will act as an investment support for climate change partnerships across the globe.

ALTÉRRRA represents a pioneering approach to climate finance. With its focus on emerging markets and developing economies, the climate fund will address the lack of traditional investment in these regions through a targeted goal of investing USD 250bn by 2030.

The current state of climate finance is inadequate, lacking availability, accessibility, and affordability where it is most needed. The launch of ALTÉRRRA will improve climate finance accessibility and affordability, especially in the Global South. Crucially, the UAE's commitment through ALTÉRRRA goes beyond mere financial contributions. It serves as a catalyst for leveraging capital to scale up climate-friendly projects and helping build a vibrant climate investment landscape by driving systemic change on a global scale.

The new fund embodies the UAE's vision of sustainable development as a driver of economic growth and social progress. Recognizing that climate action and economic prosperity are not mutually exclusive, the fund seeks to unlock opportunities for innovation, job creation, and inclusive development.

The urgency of the climate crisis demands bold and decisive action. The launch of ALTÉRRRA serves as a timely reminder of the importance of collective action and shared responsibility. It is a testament to the UAE's leadership and commitment to addressing one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. As we look to the future, let us draw inspiration from this example and redouble our efforts to build a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable world for all.

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ALTÉRRRA: UAE's USD30 billion climate fund bridges financing gap for climate change action

ALTÉRRRA is a new climate focused investment vehicle announced by UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for global climate solutions

At a time when climate change presents one of the most pressing challenges of our time, making finance available, accessible, affordable to countries to steer investments to accelerate the transition to a Net Zero and climate-resilient economy is crucial.

Against this backdrop, the launch of a groundbreaking USD30 billion investment fund for transformative climate partnerships at COP28 last year, provides a major impetus to finance the global energy transition.

The launch of the investment vehicle is a “defining moment” in the history of global climate finance



Announced by UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on the second day of the UN climate summit in Dubai, the USD30 billion climate fund aims to attract USD250 billion of investment by the end of the decade.

Dubbed ALTÉRRRA, the fund will allocate USD25 billion to climate strategies and USD5 billion to incentivise investment flows into the Global South.

Designed to bridge the climate financing gap and

facilitate affordable access, the fund is a differentiated model for climate investing, and will have an innovative two-part structure to stimulate innovation and identify solutions to rapidly deploy capital across the value chain of the climate economy.

The fund aims "to steer private markets towards climate investments and focus on transforming emerging markets and developing economies," where higher perceived risks have deterred traditional investment.

Announcing the launch of ALTÉRRRA at the World



Climate Action Summit at COP28, the UAE President underscored that the UAE has invested USD 100 billion in climate action and renewable and clean energy and is committed to investing an additional USD 130 billion over the next seven years.

His Highness also spoke about the role of the country's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who instilled in his people a deep-rooted commitment to conserving natural resources and sustainability.

Catalytic investment fund

ALTERRA is set to become the world's largest private investment vehicle for climate change action. The UAE has put forward USD30 billion to help finance a new climate economy that, along with contributions from the private sector and other partners, will aim to mobilize USD250

billion globally by 2030, to get investment where it is needed most, including for emerging markets and developing economies.

ALTERRA's investments will be guided by four key pillars aligned with the COP28 Action Agenda to tackle the climate crisis: Energy transition, Industrial decarbonization, Sustainable living, and Climate technologies.

The COP28 Presidency's efforts have centered around making greater climate finance available, accessible and affordable, to accelerate the global transition towards a net-zero and climate resilient future, faster.

At present, private capital is not moving fast enough or at the scale that is required to meet the climate challenge, with barriers felt most acutely amongst emerging markets and developing economies. ALTERRA aims to address

ALTÉRRRA partners with global entities to improve global climate finance at scale to drive an accelerated transformation towards net-zero and climate resilient economies



the challenge of scale and scalability, through anchor funding and mobilizing partners, to deploy climate finance faster and at scale, where it is most needed, while striving to implement eco-friendly solutions.

Dual mandate

ALTÉRRRA is organized into two components to achieve its dual mandate of driving positive climate action and generating strong returns.

The USD25 billion ALTÉRRRA ACCELERATION fund will steer institutional capital towards climate investments at scale that have the greatest potential to accelerate the transition to a net-zero and climate resilient economy.

ALTÉRRRA ACCELERATION will serve as an anchor investor and co-investor in climate strategies, allocating capital both directly and through fund partnerships to maximize its global impact.

The USD5 billion ALTÉRRRA TRANSFORMATION fund will provide risk mitigation capital to incentivize investment flows into the Global South, directly addressing the challenges that currently limit climate investment and access to affordable capital, in line with COP28's message of full inclusivity.

ALTÉRRRA TRANSFORMATION will also create opportunities to leverage concessional finance to further attract climate investment to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island

Delivering a positive impact

ALTERRA will initially partner with three leading investors with a compelling climate investment track record: BlackRock, Brookfield and TPG



months of the fund's launch.

The UAE has had a decades-long commitment to climate investment at home and abroad and it is one of the most significant investors in clean energy. ALTERRA is one component of UAE's commitment and contribution to climate finance, and among the range of finance-led initiatives launched during COP28 to address the climate finance challenge holistically.

To date, the UAE has invested over USD50 billion in renewable energy projects across 70 countries and plans to deploy another USD50 billion over the next decade.



Dubai establishes Dubai Environment and Climate Change Authority

UAE NEWS

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, issued directives to establish the Dubai Environment and Climate Change Authority, to further promote sustainable practices across sectors, to preserve biodiversity, and expand natural reserves and green spaces in the emirate. The initiative is aimed at creating a solid foundation for the green economy to flourish and enhance Dubai's role in the global movement to combat climate change.

His Highness also issued directives to appoint Ahmed Mohammed bin Thani as the Director-General of the newly launched entity. The authority will be tasked with enhancing Dubai's future preparedness and will implement strategic programmes to bolster the sustainability of natural resources, optimise the use of local resources, accelerate the development of the green economy, and reduce carbon footprint.

The authority will also assist decision-makers in

creating development policies, planning processes, and strategic performance metrics to ensure biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation, and enhanced food security.

The Dubai Environment and Climate Change Authority seeks to further the emirate's environmental goals by expanding its green cover by 100 percent and increasing the area of protected areas and natural reserves by 60 percent by 2040. Moreover, it will prioritise the conservation of water resources and the adoption of sustainable waste management policies.

Addressing climate change and ensuring food security will be among the authority's highest priorities. The authority will introduce resilient plans for the emirate's infrastructure and services that integrate the principles of eco-friendliness and sustainability. These initiatives aim to safeguard the community against the adverse effects of accidents, disasters, and natural calamities.



UAE continues its humanitarian march on Zayed Humanitarian Day

On Zayed Humanitarian Day and 20th anniversary of Founding Father's passing, UAE President directs launch of Zayed Humanitarian Legacy Initiative valued at AED20 billion

The United Arab Emirates marked "Zayed Humanitarian Day" on March 29 this year, an annual occasion observed on the 19th of Ramadan, commemorating the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father.

In honouring this day, the UAE reaffirms its commitment to perpetuating the noble legacy of Sheikh Zayed, who laid the foundation for a culture of giving that transcends borders, carrying with it values of compassion and a steadfast dedication to uplifting humanity wherever it may be in need. This dedication has firmly positioned the UAE as a global leader in humanitarian endeavours.

This year's commemoration comes amid a series of testimonials underscoring the enduring impact of the founding leader's humanitarian vision and his remarkable acts of kindness, which remain integral to the UAE's values.

Among these efforts is the "Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative," launched by President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to address global water scarcity. Additionally, the "Mothers' Endowment" campaign was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, to honour mothers by establishing an AED1 billion endowment fund that supports the education of millions worldwide.

Zayed Humanitarian Legacy Initiative

President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has directed the launch of the Zayed Humanitarian Legacy Initiative, with AED20 billion allocated for humanitarian works in the world's most vulnerable communities.

The launch of the initiative reinforces the humanitarian values embodied by Sheikh Zayed, extending his legacy of generosity and support to those in need globally.

The global humanitarian initiative aims to improve quality of life for the most vulnerable communities to build a prosperous future and achieve sustainable development, underscoring the UAE's commitment to Sheikh Zayed's approach towards extending a helping hand, contributing to building communities, and supporting vulnerable groups. Millions of people will benefit from this support.

The launch of the initiative comes at a crucial time, as humanitarian work has become more vital than ever to address the challenges posed by global health and economic crises. It serves as a fundamental pillar in overcoming these challenges and fostering stability and development.

The initiative embodies the humanitarian vision of the UAE, which strives to achieve sustainable



development and social and economic progress for the world's most underprivileged communities. Through this global initiative, the UAE enhances its status as a global humanitarian force in efforts to contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity for all of humanity.



Mothers' Endowment campaign raises over AED1.4 billion

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, announced that the Mothers' Endowment campaign, which he launched on 4th March 2024 to honour mothers by establishing an AED1 billion endowment fund that aims to support the education and training of millions of individuals around the world, has successfully exceeded its target within less than a month of its launch.

He affirmed that the campaign will continue to welcome contributions throughout the year. Contributions to the Mothers' Endowment campaign amounted to AED1.484 billion before the end of Ramadan.

Sheikh Mohammed said: "The Mothers'

Endowment campaign's success in exceeding its target in record time is a testament to the benevolent, generous nature of the UAE people and to their deeply rooted principles. The Emirati community has presented a bright example of giving and solidarity that are integral to the UAE's value system and identity."

"The UAE will not waver in its mission to serve humanity and help communities rise up and improve through projects and campaigns that go far beyond temporary aid and focus instead on sustainable and constructive empowerment," His Highness added.

During the Holy Month of Ramadan, the UAE has initiated numerous charitable endeavours around the world, mirroring the spirit of generosity, mercy, and tolerance exemplified by Sheikh Zayed. The nation's unwavering efforts to provide relief to countries facing crises and emergencies

The enduring impact of Sheikh Zayed's humanitarian vision is reflected in the "Mothers' Endowment" campaign, launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai

Mothers' Endowment campaign
raises over

AED **1.4**
billion

a permanent education fund and an ongoing charity in the name of UAE mothers, may God bless our efforts.

further underscore its commitment to humanitarian causes.

Sheikh Zayed established a robust institutional framework for foreign assistance. Under his leadership, the UAE directed approximately AED90.5 billion in developmental and humanitarian aid to over 117 countries.

Tributes to Sheikh Zayed

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid also shared a message in tribute of Sheikh Zayed. "His goodness remains with us, he is present with us with his giving, he has not left us," Sheikh Mohammed wrote on X. "How can someone who built a state for good, leave?"

Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, said the "Zayed Humanitarian Legacy Initiative is a continuation of his approach and consolidation of his values."

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed, Crown Prince of Dubai said Sheikh Zayed's influence has resulted in millions of people around the world benefitting from charitable and humanitarian projects.

Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, also paid tribute to Sheikh Zayed in a post shared on X.

"Following the path laid out by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, we continue to strive for human progress," he wrote. "Our youth, through their global humanitarian efforts, exemplify the values of brotherhood and generosity that he has instilled in us."

Hazza Al Mansouri, the UAE's first astronaut in space, said Sheikh Zayed's legacy of humanitarianism changed millions of lives. "Millions of people's lives have changed for the better. Thousands of projects and initiatives have been implemented. Hundreds of countries have benefited," he said.



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment hosts educational outreach programme for 9 students, aged 15-18, from US-based PACE Academy



The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment recently hosted a group of students and faculty leaders from PACE Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, as part of its enriching educational outreach programme targeting the next generation of environmental stewards. The programme aimed to introduce the young students to the Foundation's ongoing efforts in raising awareness on climate challenges and solutions and its significant contributions to environmental conservation and preservation in the region and globally.

The delegation, comprising nine high school students aged 15-18, two teachers from PACE Academy, and two members from Envoys, an organization that leads educational travel programs with schools in the US and Canada, visited the UAE from February 29 to March 10, 2024, and had the unique opportunity to gain insights into the legacy of work and initiatives undertaken by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment to tackle the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

During their visit to the Foundation's office on March 6, 2024, members of the Higher Committee introduced the students to the Foundation's mission and values, its ongoing partnerships and projects, and the positive impact of these on societies and communities.

Welcoming the students and teachers, Prof. Mohammad Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, reinforced that the Foundation's

Nine high school students aged 15-18 gained unique insights into the legacy of work and initiatives undertaken by the Zayed International Foundation to tackle the urgent challenges posed by climate change



land and people, we continue to pioneer initiatives in sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and wildlife preservation," stated Dr. Bin Fahad.

"The legacy of Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Rashid underscores our nation's dedication to prioritizing the well-being of our citizens and the preservation of our natural resources. Their visionary leadership has paved the way for strategic infrastructure projects that not only drive economic prosperity but also embrace sustainable practices," he continued.

"Through groundbreaking technologies and strategic initiatives implemented by the wise leaders, the country has transformed challenges

determination to be part of the climate solutions and its commitment to driving action on the ground align with the UAE's deep-rooted commitment to green initiatives, renewable energy projects, and a holistic approach to development that prioritizes harmony with nature.

"Our commitment to sustainability and the preservation of our environment is deeply ingrained in the ethos of the UAE. Inspired by the profound connection our leaders had with our



into opportunities, significantly scaling up its capabilities of thriving in arid environments, including through the conservation of our precious water resources.

"Today, climate action stands as a central pillar in the UAE's development strategy. The country was the first in the region to commit to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. The country's status at the forefront of environmental sustainability was showcased to the world during COP28, and the UAE Consensus epitomizes our nation's

Through groundbreaking technologies and strategic initiatives, the UAE has transformed challenges into opportunities, ensuring the responsible stewardship of its precious water resources



unwavering dedication to fostering international cooperation and driving global action towards a more sustainable and equitable future."

"At Zayed International Foundation, we consider it our foremost responsibility to empower the next generation to become environmental stewards, ensuring they inherit a world where sustainability and conservation are not just ideals but a way of life. By fostering a deep appreciation for our environment and equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to address pressing environmental challenges, we are working towards empowering our youth to lead the charge towards a greener, more sustainable future," added Dr. Bin Fahad.

"Sheikh Zayed believed that social and economic progress should not be achieved at the expense of the environment. Today, the UAE continues his great legacy, places a strong emphasis on education and capacity building, particularly of youth, as we strive for a future where progress and sustainability go hand in hand. Through education, advocacy, and meaningful engagement, our goal is to instill in our youth the values of environmental stewardship, inspiring them to take action and become champions for our planet," he concluded.

Saji Ittoop Thomas, Technical Advisor, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment expressed his enthusiasm for hosting the

The field trip to Mai Dubai factory helped students gain a firsthand understanding of the water consumption and sustainable production processes

delegation and said: "We are excited to welcome the students and faculty of PACE Academy. Our mission to preserve and protect the environment aligns closely with the values instilled in these young minds. We hope that this experience will inspire them to become champions of environmental sustainability in their communities and beyond."

As part of the educational journey, Saji Ittoop Thomas and Binu Varghese Daniel at Zayed International Foundation led the students and faculty leaders on a field trip to Mai Dubai factory, a 100% solar-powered facility, to gain a firsthand understanding of the water consumption and production processes.

Experts from Mai Dubai provided an overview of the facility's operations and its sustainable water management practices as they guided the delegation through the various stages of water production to the final bottling stage.

During the tour, students witnessed the intricate processes involved in water purification and bottling and the advanced technology employed to maintain water quality standards throughout the production process. The delegation also engaged with experts at Mai Dubai, who shared insights on the company's commitment to sustainability and the initiatives implemented to reduce water wastage and minimize the ecological footprint of the production process.

The PACE Academy students also learnt how sustainability has been the driving force of all operations at Mai Dubai since inception. Having installed an 18.1MW rooftop solar system, the second-largest solar roof installation globally and the largest in the Middle East, this solar installation alone helps Mai Dubai mitigate over 10,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually.

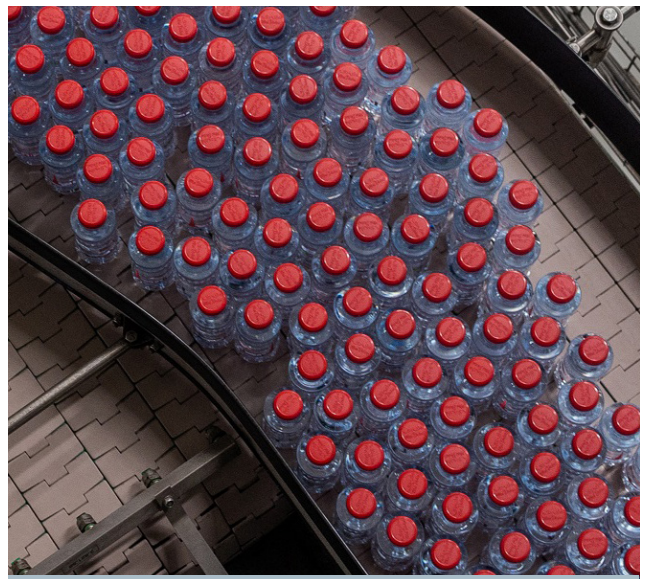


The company also became the region's first beverage company to launch an EV into its delivery fleet.

Following the visit, a PACE Academy student remarked: "This visit to the Mai Dubai factory has been truly enlightening. Understanding the complexities of water production and witnessing the company's dedication to sustainability has motivated me to make more conscious choices in my daily life."

A teacher accompanying the students also shared his thoughts, stating, "The opportunity for our students to engage with the experts at the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment was invaluable. It's crucial for them to understand the global impact of environmental issues and the importance of collective action. In addition, the immersive experience at Mai Dubai has reinforced the importance of environmental conservation among our students. It's crucial for them to recognize the interconnectedness of our actions and their impact on the environment."

"Through education, advocacy, and meaningful engagement, our goal is to instill in our youth the values of environmental stewardship, inspiring them to take action and become champions for our planet"





‘Count Your ne’ma’ Ramadan campaign spotlights food waste

UAE NEWS

ne’ma, the UAE National Food Loss and Waste Initiative, launched a nationwide Ramadan campaign, "Count Your ne’ma" (Count Your Blessings), which aims to raise awareness and encourage actionable steps to reduce food loss and waste during the holy month. According to ne’ma’s recent National Household Survey, 85 percent of participants recognise food waste as a crucial national issue.

ne’ma the National Food Loss and Waste initiative- a partnership between Emirates Foundation and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, aims to inspire individuals to be more considerate and mindful when it comes to food consumption, emphasising the importance of reducing waste and stockpiling and embracing sustainability. The month-long campaign aligns with the values of Ramadan and encourages reflection and the cultivation of good habits, including meal planning, serving smaller food portions, storing food properly and sharing untouched food with those in need.

Key elements of the "Count Your ne’ma" campaign include behaviour change initiatives to drive new social norms and sustainable practices on the individual level, supported by the collaboration with the hospitality industry partners, regulatory bodies, and food banks to distribute imperfect surplus fresh produce to support communities, prevent food waste, and enhance food security.

Building on the commitment of the hospitality sector, over 270 sector partners are now registered and reporting data on the ne’ma Data Hub. These partners include leading hotel chains Hilton, Accor, Rotana, Marriott, and Jumeirah, among others.

Food loss and waste have significant economic and social impacts, and is a key environmental challenge. Globally, about eight percent of all GHG emissions are linked to food waste. In 2023, ne’ma diverted over 1 million kg of food from landfills, saving 2.4 million kg of CO2 emissions.



COP28 President unveils 'Troika vision' at Copenhagen Climate Ministerial

The joint vision involving the leaders of three climate change conferences aims to ensure countries deliver climate action

In his address to global climate leaders and ministers at the opening session of the Copenhagen Climate Ministerial, Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, highlighted the role the COP Presidencies Troika will play in driving ambition in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The first-of-its-kind COP Presidencies' Troika was agreed in the historic UAE Consensus and aims to enhance continuity between COP 28, COP29 and COP30 and drive implementation of the UAE Consensus.

In a segment titled 'Presenting the Troika Vision,' Dr. Al Jaber was joined by COP29 President-Designate Mukhtar Babayev and André Corrêado Lago, Secretary for Climate, Energy and Environment for COP30 host Brazil. "This Troika will help to ensure that the next crucial round of Nationally Determined Contributions is in line with keeping our collective North Star of 1.5°C within reach," Dr. Al Jaber told delegates.

The UAE Consensus was a victory for multilateralism and proof of the power of inclusivity. It showed that positivity and solidarity can overcome pessimism and polarisation,” Dr. Al Jaber told the assembled climate leaders. “Countries set aside self-interest for the common good and united around the common goal of keeping 1.5°C within reach.”

The next round of NDCs represents “a critical tool for correcting course” on climate action, Dr. Al Jaber said. “Parties must do the work now to

‘The UAE Consensus was a victory for multilateralism and proof of the power of inclusivity’



ensure that their NDCs meet the urgency of the moment – and are submitted at least nine months before COP30.”

NDCs should be economy-wide and cover all greenhouse gases – including methane – he said, adding that countries should put policies in place to deliver emission reductions of 60 percent compared to 2019 levels, before 2035. The COP28 President called for attendees to “follow the science” and ensure energy transition pathways are “just, orderly and responsible”.

Ahead of the meeting, the COP Presidencies

Troika issued a letter to Parties, highlighting their commitment to “advocate strongly for early submissions of high ambition NDCs that decisively take forward the UAE Consensus.” The letter also commits the three Presidencies’ host countries to submit 1.5°C aligned NDCs, guided by the UAE Consensus, by early 2025.

The Troika has also submitted a letter to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to “ensure there is a unified, coherent, and effective technical support framework to member states, particularly developing countries, to prepare and



implement the next generation of their NDCs.”

Dr. Al Jaber added, “At COP28 collectively, we changed the mindset that views climate action as a burden to one that sees it as an opportunity to stimulate new industries, leverage new technologies, including the transformative power of AI, create new jobs and drive sustainable growth.”

In his remarks, Dr Al Jaber emphasised the need to make efforts across the climate agenda, “Efforts to reduce emissions must be matched by equally strong action on adaptation”. Parties should design comprehensive National Adaptation Plans that cover food systems, water security, nature and health, are focused on peoples’ lives and livelihoods and “critically, they must be well funded,” he added.

“Finance is the key enabler to all climate progress and essential to rebuilding trust, especially with the Global South,” the COP28 President stated. COP28 “delivered a trust-building breakthrough on Loss and Damage, by creating the Fund and mobilising initial contributions,” he said, calling on all Parties who can to make “a substantial contribution” to the Fund.

“COP28 advanced the conversation around a

comprehensive redesign of the international financial system to align finance flows with climate goals,” Dr. Al Jaber said. “We now need to move from conversation to implementation. Climate finance must be made more available, accessible and affordable at every level.”

The COP28 President issued an open invitation to all Parties to attend the UAE Climate Finance Forum in Abu Dhabi in June, which will work towards realising “a climate finance architecture that unlocks the trillions needed for transformational green growth,” he said.





UAE Ministry of Defence, Masdar sign partnership agreement to develop multi-solar plants across Abu Dhabi

UAE NEWS

The UAE Ministry of Defence and Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC (Masdar) have signed a partnership agreement to develop multi-solar plants across Abu Dhabi.

Emerge, a joint venture between the UAE's Masdar and France's EDF Group, will provide a full turnkey solution for the projects, including finance, design, procurement, construction, operations, and maintenance for 25 years.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Major General Sheikh Ahmad Bin Tahnoon Bin Mohammad Al Nahyan, Deputy Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed Forces; Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, COP28 President and Masdar Chairman; Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, CEO of Masdar; Luc Koechlin, CEO Middle East of EDF Group; and Michel Abi Saab, General Manager of Emerge.

The agreement was signed at Masdar City in Abu Dhabi by Brigadier General Saeed Al Ketbi, Commander of the Military Works Command

from the UAE Ministry of Defence and Abdulaziz Alobaidli, COO of Masdar and Chairman of Emerge.

Dr Sultan Al Jaber said: "At COP28 UAE, the world came together to agree the historic UAE Consensus and Action Agenda to deliver unprecedented climate action in this critical decade. The UAE will continue leading by example, and we are proud to be supporting the UAE Ministry of Defence in its Climate Change Strategy as the nation advances its Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative."

In December 2023, the Ministry of Defence launched the UAE Armed Forces' Climate Change Strategy on the sidelines of the COP28, the first of its kind in the region. It aims to strengthen the UAE Armed Forces' commitment to reduce carbon emissions and encourage active participation at all levels in the transition to sustainability.



COP28 Director-General calls for greater climate finance collaboration at G20 meeting in Brazil

His Excellency Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, COP28 Director-General, has concluded a visit to Brazil, where he called on key finance stakeholders to strengthen cooperation on climate finance.

During his visit he highlighted the Global Climate Finance Framework, launched and endorsed by key world leaders at COP28, to make climate finance available, accessible and affordable. Ambassador Al Suwaidi participated in a series of high-level dialogues at the Climate Finance Forum in São Paulo held on the sidelines of the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under Brazil's G20 Presidency. He also held productive meetings with philanthropies, finance ministers, officials from international financial institutions, and other financial leaders, as he emphasised the critical importance of finance in enabling climate action.

"A key focus of the COP28 Presidency's Action Agenda is how we can move the needle on climate finance to make it more available, accessible

and affordable for all, and remove barriers impeding investment, especially into the Global South,” said Ambassador Al Suwaidi, “It shouldn’t be that 86 percent of total climate finance in Africa is from public finance, while in North America it is just four percent – we need to change the narrative on climate finance and show that it represents an unprecedented business opportunity.”

The COP28 Director-General participated in an official G20 side event on financing climate and

private climate investment fund, called for greater mobilisation of private climate finance through innovative solutions and approaches. ALTÉRRRA was launched at COP28 with a US\$30 billion commitment from the UAE, with the goal of mobilising US\$250 billion by the end of this decade.

“The challenges we face to tackle the climate crisis are too big for any single government, company or capital source to tackle alone – we need collaboration and coalitions,” Ambassador



development, highlighted the Global Climate Finance Framework launched at COP28, and the importance of the first-ever COP Presidencies Troika in making the goal of 1.5°C within reach.

Central to realising this ambition was the launch of the COP Presidencies Troika uniting COP28 with Azerbaijan and Brazil’s upcoming COP Presidencies, to foster international cooperation and drive ambitious collective climate action.

Ambassador Al Suwaidi, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of ALTÉRRRA, the world’s largest

Al Suwaidi said, “ALTÉRRRA sees innovative approaches and partnerships as integral to delivering the impact we want to see and to deploy the scale of capital we want to mobilise.”

While participating in a roundtable with global and local investors Ambassador Al Suwaidi noted the immense opportunities to collaborate and partner with Brazil on climate, he said, “ALTÉRRRA and the UAE want to invest in the future, we see Brazil as a key player in that green future.”

C O P 2 8

COP28 President receives leadership award for securing historic UAE Consensus

**“COP28 was a success because
of its full inclusivity. Everyone
had a seat at the table”**

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, President of COP28, was honored with an award from CERAWeek by S&P Global, the world's premier energy conference, recognising his leadership in sustainable energy.

Dr. Al Jaber received the 'CERAWeek Leadership Award for Building Global Consensus towards a Sustainable Energy Future' in recognition of delivering the UAE Consensus, which has emerged as the defining point of reference for global climate action, giving clear direction to countries on how to keep 1.5°C within reach, transforming agreements into tangible outcomes, and ensuring global implementation.

Dr. Al Jaber was presented with the award by Daniel Yergin, Vice Chairman of S&P Global and CERAWeek Conference Chair, to recognise the COP28 President's extraordinary act of leadership which will have a global impact.



Daniel Yergin said, “The UAE Consensus that emerged from Dubai outlined pathways for governments and industries to work together to achieve what is nothing short of a historic transformation of the world’s energy systems. Dr. Sultan emphasised inclusiveness and engagement as the necessary foundation for climate solutions. This was not easy to implement. But in succeeding, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber established a new vector for future COPs.”

“On behalf of my leadership and the people of the United Arab Emirates, I am deeply honoured to accept this award for the UAE Consensus,” Dr. Al Jaber, who attended the conference virtually, said in his acceptance speech.

Over the last decade, CERAWeek by S&P Global has honoured the following individuals for extraordinary acts of leadership with global impact: Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and Enrique Peña Nieto, former President of Mexico.

Multilateralism, inclusivity, and the spirit of partnership, which were at the core of the COP28 conference, were key to achieving the UAE Consensus. The UAE Consensus delivered a series of firsts, including a commitment from all Parties to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, and also set time-bound targets to triple global renewable energy capacity and double energy capacity by 2030.

“In a world too often held back by conflict, the UAE Consensus brought nations together to take a giant step forward for climate progress,” Dr. Al Jaber said. “Countries set aside self-interest for the common goal of keeping 1.5°C within reach. And multilateralism overcame geopolitics to produce an unprecedented agreement for a fair, orderly and responsible energy transition.

Dr. Al Jaber credited the spirit of climate



actionism and optimism that COP28 UAE inspired, by bringing every actor to the table to help deliver results, from private and public sectors, civil society and faith leaders, youth and Indigenous Peoples. “In short, COP28 was a success because of its full inclusivity. Everyone had a seat at the table. Everyone was invited to contribute, and everyone’s contribution was welcome, including those from industry, and in

particular, the oil and gas industry,” he told the attendees.

Dr. Al Jaber emphasised that the oil and gas sector is a critical player in addressing climate change. During COP28 the Presidency launched the Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter (OGDC), with signatories aligning around net-zero emissions by or before 2050, zero-out methane emissions by 2030, eliminate routine flaring by 2030, and continue working towards industry best practices in emission reduction.

The ‘CERAWeek Leadership Award for Building Global Consensus towards a Sustainable Energy Future’ was conferred on Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, President of COP28, in recognition of delivering the UAE Consensus

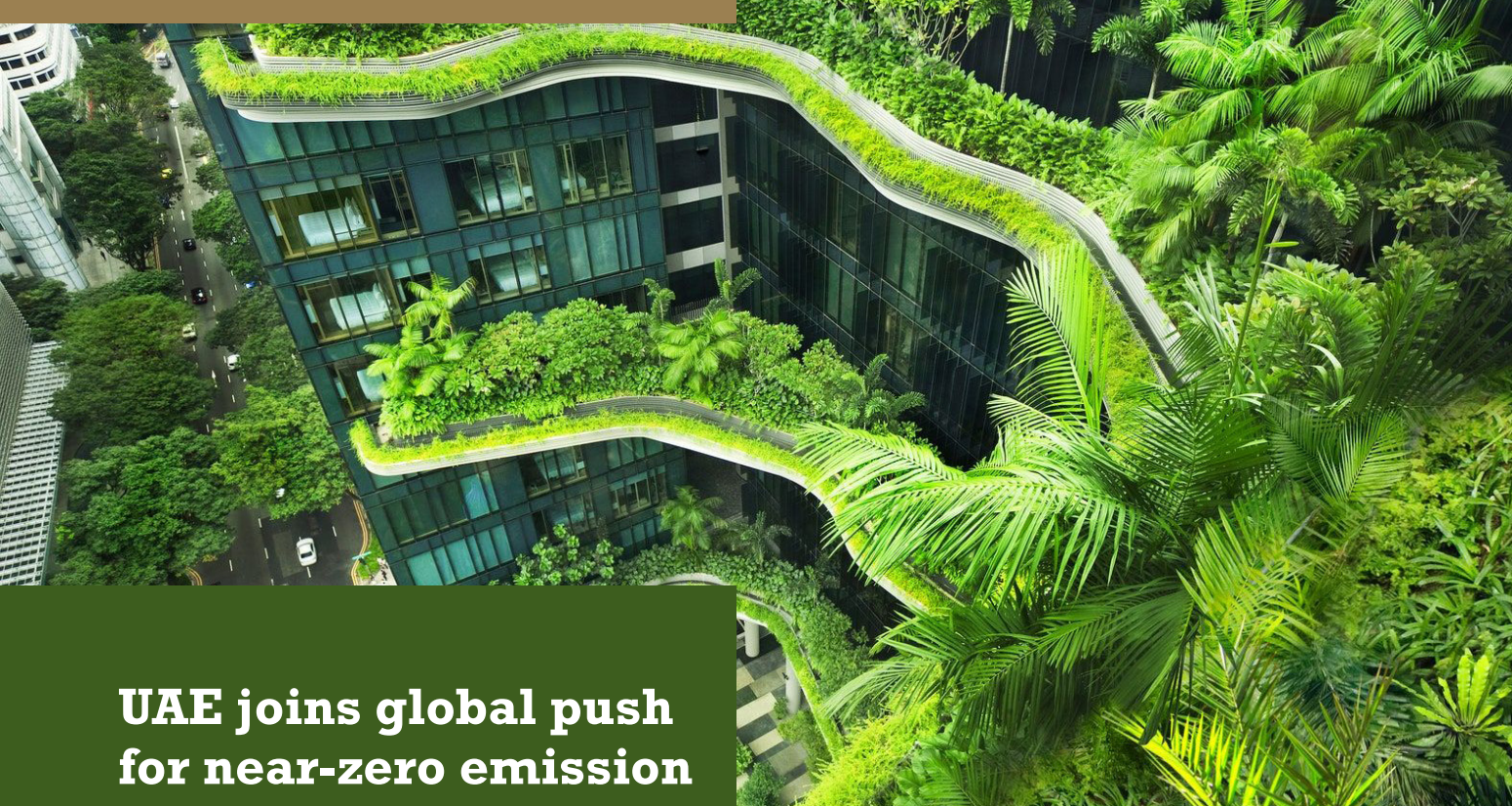


So far 52 companies, representing almost 40 percent of global oil production, have signed up. National Oil Companies (NOCs) represent over 60 percent of signatories – the largest-ever number of NOCs to commit to a decarbonisation initiative – alongside international oil companies.

Dr. Al Jaber indicated that the roadmap of the UAE Consensus must be met with “smart policies to commercialise clean technologies”, which should be coupled with financing.

A core priority of the COP28 Presidency is to scale up climate finance and help to mobilise the resources required to make finance more accessible, available and affordable, he added.





UAE joins global push for near-zero emission buildings by 2030

UAE NEWS

The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, participated in the first Buildings and Climate Global Forum 2024, held in March in the French capital, Paris.

The forum brought together ministers and officials responsible for decarbonisation and resilience in the construction, real estate, and construction sector for the first time after the COP28 conference. It was co-organised by France and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the support of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction.

The Ministry attended the first global ministerial segment to endorse a joint ministerial declaration that defines the common principles and cooperation framework for global efforts to achieve the goal of "Near-zero emission and resilient buildings by 2030". Thus, the UAE announced its joining the international cooperation to decarbonise the building sector and enhance its resilience.

Participating in high-level sessions accompanying the forum, Eng Nusaiba Al Marzouqi, Director of Studies and Research and Chief Innovation Officer at MoEI, highlighted the country's efforts in developing clear and measurable methodologies to reduce the carbon footprint in the building and construction sector and the mechanism for updating the targets of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) based on the capabilities of the current situation to be a model to be followed by other countries.

The forum followed the annual meeting of the World Green Building Council Committee, which the Ministry attended as a member representing the UAE.

The meeting aimed to follow up on the implementation of the Council's strategies, activities, and initiatives, the latest of which is Buildings Breakthrough, and to review and approve the Buildings Global Status Report 2023.

Year of Sustainability 2024 introduces 'Sustainability Champions Society' to engage the public in sustainable action

Following the announcement by UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to extend the Year of Sustainability into 2024, the initiative revealed its tagline “Plan to Action” with the aim to engage the public through planned activations in four key focus areas: on green transportation, water and energy reduction, responsible consumption and planting wisely.

The team leading the initiative revealed its first activation – the launch of the Sustainability Champions Society – a platform inviting sustainability enthusiasts of all ages to share their stories nationwide and join the Year of Sustainability in events, initiatives, and gatherings across the Emirates throughout the year. All ideas for impactful activities, innovative initiatives, and community-driven projects are welcomed and can be shared by filling out the form on the official Year of Sustainability



website <https://uaeyearof.ae/champions>.

“We want to build upon the success of last year’s initiative and continue the momentum towards sustainable behaviour change by taking into account everything we learnt last year. There is a deeper understanding now of what changes we need to make collectively, as well as greater research that indicates an impactful shift towards embracing sustainability as a life-long commitment,” said Eisa Alsubousi, Project Lead of the Year of Sustainability.

“Our aim is to catalyse sustainable action towards this common goal through community engagement, on-ground activations and enhanced cooperation with public and private entities towards sustainability leadership,” Alsubousi added.

The Year of Sustainability team will be unrolling various activations throughout 2024. These include meaningful collaborations with government, private and public entities through a focus on building sustainability leadership. In addition, the initiative will also be hosting several community events and on-ground activations, such as Duroor Nights, Sustainability Stops, Farm To Haseer, and many more, designed to engage the public towards sustainable behaviour change.

In addition, the Year of Sustainability will also be engaging the public in legacy projects that were developed during the 2023 Year of Sustainability. One such project is the “Material Lab”, a collaborative model for sustainable production launched by the Year of Sustainability team, through which it engages UAE-based creatives, innovators and businesses to rethink production and design, from conception to manufacturing. The programme’s two-tiered approach consisted of Sustainable Production and Repurposing Materials that emphasised on material innovation and reusing existing resources and materials.

A visual learning tool across classrooms will be used to educate students on how to respond to environmental challenges through innovative problem-solving skills



Furthermore, the Year of Sustainability is set to launch a unique experience for younger audiences that will be used as a visual learning tool across classrooms to educate students in learning how to respond to environmental challenges through innovative problem-solving skills.

Throughout 2023, the Year of Sustainability initiative promoted collective sustainable action change through a range of community-driven initiatives and sustainability-themed activities rooted in the UAE’s heritage, focusing on three focus areas: responsible consumption, conservation and climate action.



Abu Dhabi named Arab Environment Capital for 2023

Award recognises the emirate's achievements in environmental protection and climate action over several years

Abu Dhabi has been named Arab Environment Capital for 2023 by the Secretariat General of the Arab League and the Council of Arab Environment Ministers. The organisation recognised the emirate's achievements in environmental protection and climate action over several years, led by Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD).

Abu Dhabi was named Capital of the Arab Environment for 2023 in recognition of the emirate's distinguished environmental protection efforts, and implementation of related initiatives and projects to improve people's quality of life – all underpinned by the aim to achieve sustainable development and protect natural resources in the region.

Abu Dhabi won the competition organised by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment during its 34th session in Muscat last year. The agency prepared its award submission in cooperation with local partners, including Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT), Abu Dhabi

Sustainable Water Solutions Company (ADSWS), Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA), Abu Dhabi Waste Management Company Tadweer, and the Department of Energy (DOE).

At the forefront of sustainability

Key achievements by Abu Dhabi included the emirate's focus on climate change centred around

planting initiative that disperses seeds using drone technology, and conducting an atmospheric research expedition to improve air quality and mitigation measures. The agency also launched the Green Industries eco-labelling programme to reduce industrial sector emissions, and created an index of farms applying climate-smart practices.

Abu Dhabi has a comprehensive plan for land transport, low-emission vehicles, and traffic management in the emirate. The plan includes measures to reduce carbon emissions, such as creating public transportation infrastructure using renewable energy technologies, as well as innovative systems for operating buses using solar energy, and encouraging the use of alternative means of transportation, such as bicycles.

Combatting land degradation

Abu Dhabi has made great efforts to combat land degradation caused by erosion and wind, creating forest areas to reduce sand encroachment and limit its impact on green spaces and air pollution.

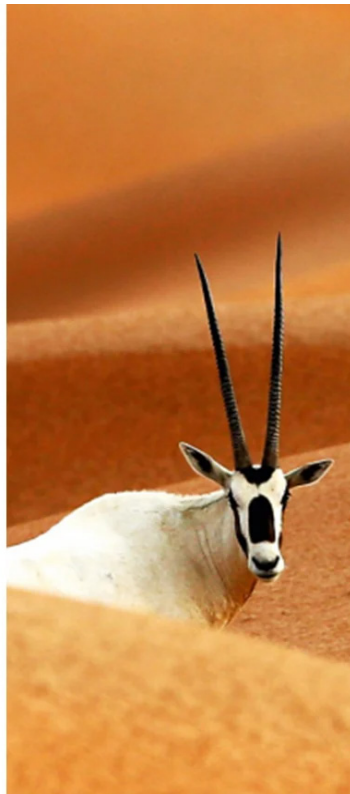
Strategic plans have also been developed to help urban cities mitigate and adapt to climate change, and Abu Dhabi's Plan Maritime was developed to protect coastal areas and preserve their resources and marine habitats in a sustainable manner. A comprehensive soil survey project was also conducted and the emirate established the first soil sample bank of its kind in the Arab world and North Africa.

Commitment to biodiversity

Abu Dhabi aims to protect biodiversity and identify endangered species in the region, with a total of 3,453 species now registered in the emirate. Under a comprehensive programme, it will register new species and assess the protection status of each. The emirate launched the Red List of Threatened Species report and the Urban Biodiversity Index report, and

reducing carbon emissions while adapting to its anticipated impact. Under its climate action agenda are various projects such as: developing natural carbon sinks, planting millions of mangrove trees, converting transportation to low-emission alternatives, and diversifying energy sources.

Other climate change measures implemented in Abu Dhabi include replacing traditional lighting with smart street lighting, launching a mangrove





reintroduced some endangered species back into the wild, such as the Arabian Oryx, the Scimitar-horned Oryx, the Dama Gazelle, and the Addax.

In 2023, Abu Dhabi won a global award for its coastal and marine ecosystems rehabilitation programmes, and Bu Tinah Island was included on the UNESCO list of natural wonders, reflecting its efforts to preserve natural reserves.

Abu Dhabi manages the largest number of natural reserves in the Arab region, which cover 30.88 percent of the emirate's total area.

The emirate manages 519 forests covering 200,000 hectares – 2.9 percent of the emirate's total area. Abu Dhabi is currently making its documented environmental data available to the public through smart applications, educational tools, and social media.

Improved air quality

Maintaining and improving air quality is a priority for the emirate. Several strategic initiatives and projects have been implemented to manage and improve air quality in coordination and cooperation with other government and private agencies.

The emissions of greenhouse gases, mercury, and industrial air pollutants were inventoried and their sources analysed, and projects for the clean use of fuel in the transportation sector, the power generation sector, water production, and the transition to clean and renewable energy have been implemented.

The emirate introduced projects to periodically inspect vehicles, improve the traffic system, adopt smart management measures, and develop demand for electricity and water.

The emirate reintroduced some endangered species back into the wild, such as the Arabian Oryx, the Scimitar-horned Oryx, the Dama Gazelle, and the Addax



A study was conducted to both map noise levels in Abu Dhabi and identify any related mitigation mechanisms. The initiative saw 22 devices installed across 20 locations to monitor air and noise pollution levels.

The readings derived from the field study were entered into a mathematical modelling system. From this, a contour map was produced showing the areas most and least affected by high levels of noise, which was then used to develop improvement plans.

Promoting circular economy

Abu Dhabi implemented several initiatives to overcome key waste management challenges including developing a strategic plan for waste

sector management (2021-2025), developing and implementing regulatory and legislative frameworks, and developing an electronic system for waste classification.

Other key projects include building an integrated system for environmental inspection, compliance and enforcement, issuing a policy for producing energy from waste in 2021, and establishing three new waste incinerators designed to international best practice to treat medical and hazardous waste. The emirate also prepared a policy to reduce single-use plastics as well as executive regulations, and developed and implemented an integrated awareness plan aimed at various segments of society.

UAE: 'Strengthening water security crucial to fostering global stability'

'Water is not only fundamental to human life but also a cornerstone for securing a sustainable future'

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, emphasised that strengthening water security is crucial for fostering stability and supporting social and economic prosperity globally.

On World Water Day, which falls annually on 22nd March, Dr. Al Dahak said, "Water is the fundamental element of life, enabling human societies to stabilise, develop civilizations, and achieve prosperity. Water is the most valuable resource on our planet; it serves as a vital link between humans, food, nature, and climate.

"However, today, we face significant challenges due to the scarcity of water. It is predicted that half of the world's population will reside in regions with a shortage of water by as early as 2025. Therefore, this year's World Water Day theme, 'Water for Peace', highlights the urgent need to promptly find sustainable solutions to water-related issues in the most affected areas to ensure global stability."



The UAE recognises the significant global challenge of water scarcity, Dr. Al Dahak stated. "President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is making significant efforts to find sustainable solutions to provide fresh water for all, particularly in the most affected areas. His Highness's pivotal role in advancing global cooperation in this area is noteworthy.

"The recently launched Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative is a testament to the efforts of His Highness not only to find solutions to water

to drive the process of sustainable growth. In the UAE, water is one of the most important national priority issues, given our geographical location in an arid area, the scarcity of our natural water resources, and the high demand for water for development."

The United Nations report on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda indicated that the UAE has achieved an average of 100% in safe drinking water and sanitation services. The country has also achieved a result of 79% in



crises worldwide but also to promote peace and stability for all of humanity."

Sustainable water management

Ahmed Al Kaabi, Assistant Undersecretary for Electricity, Water, and Future Energy Sector at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI), highlighted that World Water Day is an opportunity to focus on sustainable water management.

He said, "Water is a basic human need and critical

integrated water resources management, which is one of the best regional results. "We seek to improve this result in the coming years by ensuring alignment and integration between the country's water, energy, environment, and food strategies," he noted.

Al Kaabi stated that the UAE seeks to reduce consumption through the National Energy and Water Demand Management Program 2050, support innovation in renewable energy, improve the environmental performance of power and

water plants, and increase their efficiency.

As part of the UAE's efforts to strengthen the global water security system, the country has launched, through the Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative, the XPRIZE Water Scarcity competition.

This is a five-year global competition that aims to encourage innovators around the world to focus on transforming the reliability, affordability and sustainability of water desalination technologies. The outcome is expected to touch the lives of billions of people worldwide, ensuring their

The UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 aims to reduce total demand for water resources, increase water productivity, reduce water scarcity, increase the reuse of treated water and increase national water storage capacity.



access to clean water.

In addition, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure joined forces with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) to launch the first hydrogeological map and geo-database of the UAE, a milestone achievement in documenting and managing water sources with the goal of sustaining and conserving water.

Al Kaabi emphasised that the UAE has 140 plants to treat wastewater in addition to plants owned by the private sector. The total design capacity of wastewater treatment plants nationwide is 3 million m³/day, and the total production of treated wastewater reached 768 million m³/year.

Around 73 percent of the treated water is reused mainly for irrigation of green spaces in cities.



Eco sea wall panels deployed in Abu Dhabi by AD Ports Group



AD Ports Group, the leading facilitator of global trade, logistics, and industry and Archireef, a pioneering nature-tech company, have announced the deployment of Eco Sea Wall Panels at two locations in Abu Dhabi, Al Aliah Ferry Terminal and Saadiyat Marina and Ferry Terminal with the aim to attract marine biodiversity back to shorelines that have undergone development works.

The Eco Sea Wall Panels, which are made from nature-based materials including oyster shell powder, are installed as proof of concept across two sites in Saadiyat Island and Al Aliah respectively in partnership with Abu Dhabi Maritime, who are developing and managing the terminals.

The design of the panels delivers increased natural complexity to flat quay walls, and as a result, are expected to attract intertidal marine life back to the shore.

David Gatward, Chief Engineering and Technical

Services Officer, AD Ports Group, said, “Our innovative collaboration with Archireef represents a strategic step towards enhancing marine ecosystems and is in line with AD Ports Group’s broader environmental objectives and our commitment to ecological preservation that also saw the development of one of the largest coral relocation and conservation projects at Khalifa Port.”

Deniz Tekerek, Chief Commercial Officer at Archireef and co-inventor of the Eco Sea Wall Panels, said, “We have always seen ourselves as a ‘reef-to-shore’ company that works on marine ecosystems beyond coral reefs. With these Eco Sea Wall Panels, we have been able to apply our experience in eco-engineering and marine science to an ecosystem that’s adjacent to coral reefs.”

The project is supported by an AED100 million R&D fund launched by ADQ, an Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company in 2022.

UAE Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha wins gold for 'Best Self-built Pavilion'

The accolade was in recognition of the Pavilion's adherence to the Expo's themes, its innovative landscape design, thoughtful selection of plant species, sustainable material usage, and its engaging environmental and cultural programming

The UAE Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha won gold for the "Best Self-Built Pavilion", culminating its participation in the six-month Expo 2023 Doha programme.

The UAE Pavilion's win came in recognition of its alignment with Expo 2023 Doha's themes, innovative landscape design, thoughtful plant species selection, use of sustainable materials, and engaging environmental and cultural programming. Additionally, the UAE Pavilion was recognised for its guest experience, which reflected the UAE's culture and sustainable journey.

Spanning 2,290 sqm and designed by the Bjarke Ingles Group (BIG), the Pavilion's design was inspired by the resilient Ghaf tree, the national tree of the UAE, embodying its entirety from its complex root structure to its branches and leaves, and featured rammed earth walls built from locally sourced materials and a roof made



with palm leaves. The UAE Pavilion also included thorough landscaping, with a garden full of native and adaptive plants found in the UAE, with groupings of edible plants, fruit trees, medicinal plants, flowers, spices, shrubs, grasses, industrial plants, and perennials.

The UAE Pavilion guest experience comprised six multi-sensory interventions designed by Stuttgart-based Atelier Brückner (ATB), an experience design firm whose other notable work includes contributing to the Museum of the Future. Themed “Nurturing Legacy”, the pavilion presented a deep understanding of the UAE’s agricultural legacy and the nation’s dreamers and pioneers, who are contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

On this occasion, Ibrahim Salem Humaid Alalawi, Commissioner-General of the UAE Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha, said, “The UAE Pavilion has showcased our nation’s sustainability journey and its story with the world in Qatar, showing how our innovators and researchers look to our natural environment for inspiration to co-create solutions for a more sustainable and resilient future for all. More than 20 diverse programmes were also curated to engage innovators, researchers, and guests, with a particular focus on empowering the next generation.”

The UAE Pavilion’s programming included panel discussions by featured dreamers and experts on agricultural innovations and food security; educational workshops for children to spark curiosity about the UAE’s natural environment and sustainability; creative sessions that encouraged environmental mindfulness; and live cooking demonstrations featuring salt-tolerant plants that thrive in the UAE’s desert environment. The sessions were organised in collaboration with various UAE-based entities, including the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), Halophyte Kitchen, Lest We Forget, SWALIF Collective, and Early Starters.

The Pavilion’s design was inspired by the resilient Ghaf tree, the national tree of the UAE



“Nurturing Legacy” was the UAE’s third presentation at an International Horticultural Exposition, and was overseen by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation and the National Projects Office. The UAE first participated in this kind of Horticulture Expo in Beijing 2019, then with “Salt Water Cities: Where Land Meets Sea” at the Floriade Expo 2022 in Almere, The Netherlands.

Dubai Can initiative reduces usage of single-use plastic bottles by nearly 18 million

The achievement is aligned with the UAE's Net Zero 2050 targets



Dubai Can, the citywide sustainability initiative, has seen a reduction in the usage of an equivalent of almost 18 million 500ml single-use plastic water bottles in just two years since its launch.

With the support of its partners and sponsors, Dubai Can has placed 50 public water stations in strategic locations across the city, including parks and popular tourist destinations. These stations have dispensed almost nine million litres of water.

Dubai Can was launched on 15th February, 2022, by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, to reduce the utilisation of single-use plastic water bottles, empower residents and visitors to be active players in building a more sustainable future, and contribute to saving wildlife and the marine environment.

The initiative aligns with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al

Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to transform the emirate into a leading sustainable destination. It is part of the wider efforts to reduce the use of single-use plastics and encourage a mindset change in how the city's residents and visitors view sustainability.

Dubai Can's objectives are also supporting the Dubai 2040 Urban Masterplan and Dubai's commitment to helping the UAE achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and UAE NetZero

Driving a 'Refill Culture'

All water stations throughout the city adhere to the highest hygiene standards and comply strictly with municipal, healthcare, and federal regulations. Driving a 'refill culture', the drinking water from the stations is kept cool at 10°C, offering people a clean and safe alternative.

A resident in the UAE typically uses 450 plastic water bottles on average in a year, which translates into 4 billion plastic bottles being used annually across the country. The Dubai Can



2050 targets. With the UAE's "Year of Sustainability" extending into 2024, the Dubai Can initiative has plans to expand with 30 additional water fountains being installed by the end of the year in locations around the city. This will further motivate residents and visitors to undertake simple lifestyle changes such as using refillable water bottles and installing water filters in their homes, offices, and schools.

The initiative has inspired many companies to install water fountains in their offices, reducing single-use plastics in the workplace.

initiative will continue to encourage residents and visitors to help reduce waste and prevent millions of plastic bottles from ending up in landfills and in our oceans.

A second Dubai Can project, the Dubai Reef, was also launched in December 2023. One of the world's largest marine reef developments, Dubai Reef is part of the city's efforts to increase fish stocks, support sustainable fishing, and contribute to boosting food security. It will also play a vital role in reducing carbon emissions and increasing marine biodiversity.



Amna Al Dahak affirms UAE's commitment to global environmental and climate obligations at UNEA-6

On behalf of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, delivered a speech at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6). She emphasised the UAE's commitment to fulfilling its environmental and climate obligations through international cooperation to address global climate challenges.

The sixth session of UNEA-6 took place at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEA-6 primarily focused on discussing how multilateralism can help tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

In her speech, Dr. Al Dahak said, "The world convened for COP28 in Dubai in late 2023, marking the most comprehensive Conference of the Parties ever held. The conference made a positive impact through the historic 'UAE

Consensus', a turning point in preventing the rise of global temperatures and ensuring the fair distribution of energy resources."

The Minister highlighted the UAE's focus on food as a priority for climate action at COP28, the first time in the history of COPs that food was given such importance. The UAE's efforts were recognised by 159 countries, endorsing the "COP28 UAE Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action". Dr. Al Dahak also noted the significant

stakeholders, accelerating technological innovation to address water scarcity and broadening international cooperation while encouraging investments.

As the highest decision-making body on the environment, the United Nations Environment Assembly aims to foster a renewed equilibrium between human societies and the natural world, enhancing the well-being of marginalised and vulnerable populations globally. During the opening of the COP28 in Dubai last year, an



increase in participation in various initiatives launched by the UAE, such as the "Mangrove Alliance for Climate" and the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate).

She underscored the launch of the "Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative", initiated under the directives of the UAE President to tackle the global challenge of water scarcity. Serving as a board member, Dr. Al Dahak expressed privilege in contributing to an initiative that seeks to improve collaboration among global partners and

agreement was announced on the Loss and Damage Fund, which aims to provide financing to countries that are particularly vulnerable to the severe impacts of climate change.

In light of this development, UNEA-6 dedicated a day to discussing this achievement and other successful endeavours, exploring how governments can collectively act to implement multilateral agreements they have ratified, with a specific emphasis on securing adequate financing.



Leading urban changemakers convene at Expo City Dubai for Sustainable Cities in Action Forum

Developers, architects, designers and urban planners shared solutions to catalyse positive urban development and outlined challenges and opportunities for sustainability in the built environment

Leading urban changemakers gathered at the two-day inaugural Sustainable Cities in Action Forum 2024, held from March 5-6 at Expo City Dubai, to share innovations and solutions and explore ways to catalyse positive urban development across the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

The forum welcomed city leaders, developers, architects, urban planners, non-governmental organisations, financial institutions, SME networks and international trade delegations to explore heat resilience and climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, in a shared mission to enable more prosperous, equitable, low carbon and climate-resilient cities.

The event's agenda, informed directly by the outcomes of COP28, aligns with the city's mandate to become a destination for organisations focused on sustainability and meaningful partnerships, and a centre for initiatives that preserve and sustain the planet.

Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for

International Cooperation and CEO of Expo City Dubai Authority, opened the forum, and was joined by Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, to reflect on the outcomes of the climate summit and the role of cities in catalysing climate action.

The event also introduced Expo City's new Urban Lab – a collaborative initiative that invites innovators, technology pioneers to bring their ideas for sustainable urban living and trial them in a real-world environment.

partners focused on climate action plans, ESG-compliant supply chains, sustainable procurement and the decarbonisation of communities and the built environment.

In this spirit, the UAE Sustainable Built Environment Blueprint Report – a collaborative project between the UAE's leading developers, the Emirates Green Building Council and Expo City Dubai – was launched at the forum. Introduced at COP28, the highly anticipated Blueprint outlines challenges, opportunities and key




Speakers included renowned sustainable city leader and Mayor of Chefchaouen, Mohamed Sefiani; Dr Folayinka Dania, Chief Resilience Officer for Lagos State, who spearheads the resilience strategy for one of the world's fastest growing megacities; Bushra Afreen, Chief Heat Officer, Dhaka North, and Asia's first Chief Heat Officer; and James Delaney, Founder and Managing Director, BlockWorks, who pioneered the use of Minecraft as a design tool.

Practical workshops with high-level strategic

enablers to advance sustainability in the built environment.

Delegates also saw first-hand how Expo City is working to preserve the planet with 'Live the City' tours while the UAE's SME community showcased proven solutions for more sustainable city living. All exhibitions and event materials were provided by Abu Dhabi-based Desert Board, which manufactures eco-friendly nature-based wooden boards, made from upcycled palm fronds.



Washington, DC: Pioneering sustainable solutions for cities worldwide

Washington, DC was the first of 100 cities across the world to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Cities Certification in 2017

50

GREEN CITY

Washington, DC, the capital city of the United States of America, boasts a range of practices and policies that make environmental accountability a priority for residents and visitors alike, allowing them to adopt sustainable measures readily.

DC knows that the journey of becoming a truly sustainable destination is too important to delay. That is why DC has included itself among the pioneering group of cities and regions participating in the Global Destination Sustainability-Index Assessment since 2018. The all-encompassing evaluation serves as a benchmarking tool for destinations looking to not only show off their hard work regarding social and environmental sustainability, but to share best practices with other destinations around the world and ultimately improve their own performance.

Many of the city's restaurants have a 'farm to table' ethos, and other businesses like hotels are big on sustainability when it comes to their cuisine



Government is 100 percent powered by renewable energy, according to U.S. Green Building Council.

Washington, DC was the first city in North America to launch a bike share system, which now has more than 5,000 bikes and 600 stations in the Metro region. Capital Bikeshare is one of the most popular ways to commute throughout the city and it's easy to obtain and return a bike at one of hundreds of stations.

The city has adopted goals to transition to a 100% zero-emissions bus fleet by 2045. As an alternative to traditional diesel fuel, buses that run on compressed natural gas (CNG) produce roughly 45 percent fewer hydrocarbons, making them an attractive option for green meetings and events. In Washington, DC, more than 1,400 buses operated by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) run on alternative fuel that is less harmful to the environment, including CNG, advanced technology diesel fuel, and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.

In 2022, Washington, DC was the only U.S. destination and one of only 65 in the world to submit an assessment. Initiatives by the city's leadership, like Sustainable DC, went far in proving DC's commitment to adapting to the effects of climate change.

Walkability, Transportation and Green Spaces

With 40-plus hotels within walking distance of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the ease of commuting within the nation's capital is a key benefit for business travelers. DC sets the scene for sustainable commuting. In fact, more than 50 percent of commuter trips in DC are by bike, walking or public transit and the DC





Transitioning to zero-emission technology requires more than just new buses. Washington, DC has also invested in infrastructure upgrades since the January 2023 groundbreaking of its Northern Bus Garage Reconstruction Project that will become a 100% zero-emission facility upon reopening in 2027. The garage is currently being designed and built to accommodate a fleet of 150 electric buses.

Washington, DC's environmental friendliness has a lot to do with its green space. It is home to the National Park Service that operates various hiking trails, Memorial Parks, National Mall, Rock Creek Park, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park and more. In May 2022, the Trust for Public Land rated Washington, DC the best big city park system in the country for the second consecutive year.

24 percent of the land in the District is reserved

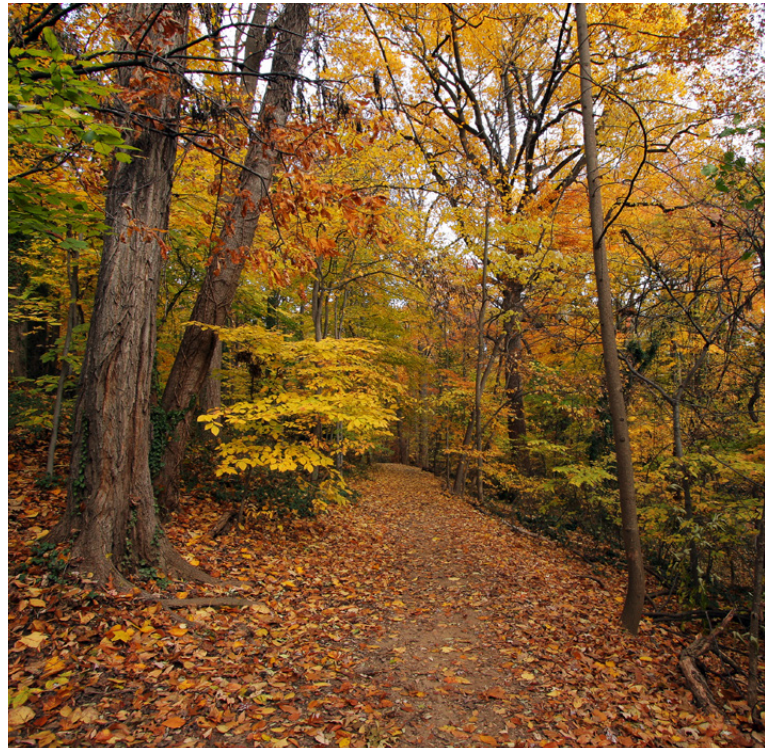
for parks, among the highest in the U.S. The District also outperformed nearly all destinations on ParkScore's park access and park equity metrics, noting that the majority of its residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Green Buildings

Washington, DC was named the world's first LEED Platinum City in 2017, in part due to the city having the most LEED-certified buildings in the U.S., according to USGBC.

LEED for Cities was launched in 2016 and enables cities to measure and communicate performance, focusing on outcomes from ongoing sustainability efforts across an array of metrics, including energy, water, waste, transportation and human experience. The city boasts a plethora of LEED certified hotels and venues in the nation's capital and sustainable spaces in each quadrant.

Waste policy and practice in DC is all about reducing, reusing, and recycling



The American Geophysical Union (AGU)'s 62,000-square-foot headquarters is the first-ever net zero energy renovation of an existing building in DC. "Net zero energy" means the total amount of energy utilized by the facility is equal to or less than the amount of energy generated onsite using technologies and renewable power generation. In turn, this reduces waste, water and energy consumption to almost zero and helps the city greatly reduce its carbon footprint.

Some of the strategies that the AGU building put in place to fulfill this goal of being a net zero energy building include 700 rooftop solar panels, a municipal sewer heat exchange system and a water reclamation cistern, which collects rainwater from the roof.

While designing strategies to reduce waste in new developments, it is just as important to mitigate the impact of the city's current waste. Washington, DC's LEED Platinum certification recognizes the city's leadership in creating a sustainable and resilient environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, supporting clean energy innovation and focusing on livability in all eight wards.

The work Washington DC has done to make itself sustainable has not only helped the fight against climate change, it has made Washington a remarkably livable and appealing place, where concern for the environment isn't just a marginal concern but part of the fabric of everyday life.



UAE opens first Plant Genetic Resources Centre

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in the Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), inaugurated the Plant Genetic Resources Centre established by the Agency in Al Ain City.

This pioneering facility aims to ensure the preservation of seeds and tissues of all wild plant types and local agricultural species of importance in the UAE.

The facility is equipped with a seed processing and testing laboratory, a herbarium, and a genetic sequencing laboratory, all featuring state-of-the-art technologies.

The centre not only focuses on preserving genetic resources but also aims to improve vegetation

cover and restore degraded natural habitats. It includes a greenhouse that simulates five distinct natural habitats found in the UAE, showcasing over 50 local plant species. This initiative also serves as a research and educational platform for university students across the country.

Sheikh Hamdan underscored the centre's vital role in safeguarding essential species and their genetic traits, contributing to climate change mitigation efforts, and enhancing the technical and scientific skills of local professionals.

Sharjah Ruler inaugurates Arabian Tahr Project

H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, has inaugurated the Arabian Tahr project within the new expansion of Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre, in the city of Kalba, which aims to provide a large natural

environment for breeding the endangered Arabian Tahr.

He also inaugurated the deer canopy area which is parallel to Al Hefaiyah Protected Area, which provides a shaded platform for visitors to watch the deer.

Al Hefaiyah Protected Area is home to more than 30 different species of mountain animals. Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre, located at the foot of the Al Hajar Mountains adjacent to the city of Kalba, is famous for its rich biological



diversity as it contains a variety of plants and animals.

The Arabian Tahr is classified as an endangered species. It is a diurnal animal isolated in small groups. It lives for 8 to 16 years, and is more concentrated on rugged mountain slopes near permanent water sources, and may swim in ponds, shallows and sand baths, as it depends for its food on water, grass, small shrubs, leaves and wild fruits.

Ajman Municipality launches 'Zero Carbon Schools' initiative

The Ajman Municipality and Planning Department has announced the launch of its "Zero Carbon Schools" initiative, which was inaugurated by H.H. Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman and Chairman of the Executive Council. The initiative is in line with the UAE's efforts to achieve sustainability, carbon



neutrality, and net zero emissions by 2050.

The initiative will achieve beneficial outcomes by converting schools into eco-friendly hubs that prioritise energy efficiency by installing solar panels for power generation, upgrading cooling and HVAC systems for better energy efficiency, and promoting the responsible use of resources and effective waste management from the source.

ENVIRONMENT

UN Environment Assembly advances collaborative action on triple planetary crisis

UNEA-6 concluded with the adoption of 15 resolutions to advance collaborative action on climate change, nature loss and pollution

The sixth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) concluded on March 1, 2024, in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, with Member States delivering 15 resolutions aiming to boost multilateral efforts to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution.

More than 5,600 people – representing 190 countries – participated in the week-long Assembly held at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, focused on effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

The UNEA-6 resolutions advance the work of Member States on management of metals, mineral resources, chemicals and waste, on environmental assistance and recovery in areas impacted by armed conflict, on integrated water resource management in the domestic sector,



agriculture and industry to tackle water stress, on sustainable lifestyles, on rehabilitation of degraded lands and waters, and more.

The 2024 Assembly also held its first Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) Day, dedicated to the international agreements addressing the most pressing environmental issues of global or regional concern, which are critical instruments of international environmental governance and international environmental law. UNEA-6 also welcomed youth to host their own environmental summit, which called for greater inter-generational equity.

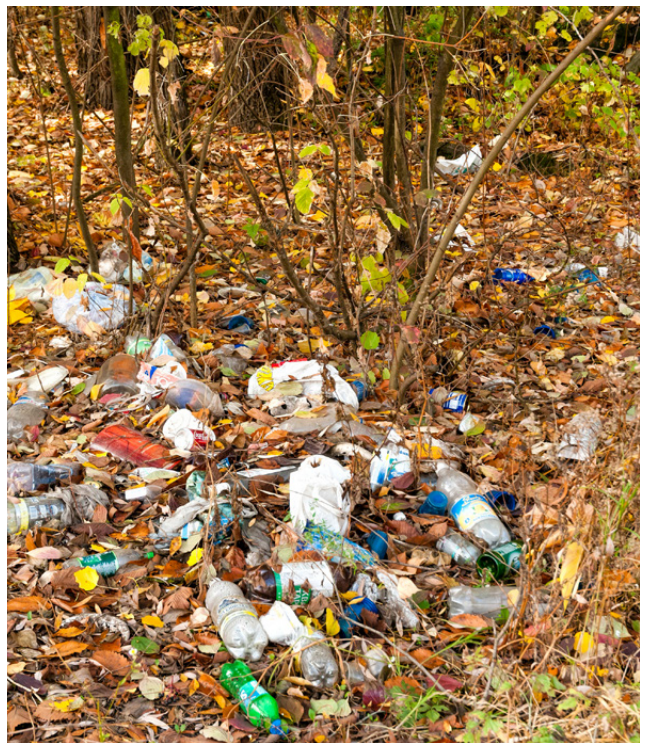
A Ministerial Declaration on the closing day affirmed Member States' commitment to slow climate change, restore and protect biodiversity, create a pollution-free world and confront issues of desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation by taking effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions.

"I am proud to say this was a successful Assembly, where we advanced on our core mandate: the legitimate human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, everywhere," said Leila Benali, UNEA-6 President and the Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco. "We have agreed on 15 resolutions, two decisions and a ministerial declaration."

Inger Andersen, UNEP's Executive Director, said: "Madam President has gavelled 15 resolutions and two decisions, which cover important aspects of the triple planetary crisis. These address desertification, land restoration and more. We also have a ministerial declaration that affirms the international community's strong intent to slow climate change, restore nature and land, and create a pollution-free world," she said.

"The world needs action. The world needs speed. The world needs real, lasting change. UNEA-6 has delivered an extra boost to help us deliver this

UNEP launched three headline reports during UNEA-6, providing policymakers with the science they need to make informed decisions on the environment



change and to ensure every person on this planet enjoys the right to a safe and healthy environment," she said.

UNEA-6 also elected a new President to preside over UNEA-7 - Abdullah Bin Ali Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority of Oman.

"In our quest to confront the monumental environmental challenges of our time—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—there is

but one path forward: teamwork. We share one Earth, bask under the same sun, and we must recognize that there is no backup plan. There's no other planet waiting for us to escape to. Hence, it's imperative that we unite our efforts with urgency and determination to safeguard our precious planet and protect its natural splendor.

"Together, let's embark on this crucial journey to secure a sustainable future for generations to come," said Bin Ali Amri, who closed his speech with an appeal for peace on and towards earth.

Without circular economy and zero-waste approaches, the world's waste pile could grow by two-thirds by 2050, and its cost to health, economies and the environment could double



Data from the 2024 Global Resource Outlook, which was launched at UNEA, warned that without urgent and concerted action to reduce global consumption and production, extraction of natural resources could rise by 60 per cent from 2020 levels, driving increasing climate damage and risks to biodiversity and human health.

The Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 showed that without a seismic shift away from 'take-make-dispose' societies towards circular economy and zero-waste approaches, the world's waste pile could grow by two-thirds by 2050, and its cost to health, economies and the environment

could double. A UNEP report on Used Heavy Duty Vehicles and the Environment has sounded the alarm on the rise of emissions from these heavy polluters, and their negative climate and health impacts.

Member states also agreed to hold the next UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in 8-12 December, 2025.





UAE Assistant Minister for Energy and Sustainable Affairs heads UAE delegation at BETD 2024

SUMMIT

Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister for Energy and Sustainable Affairs, led the UAE delegation participating in the 10th Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2024 to discuss the transition to sustainable energy systems.

Balalaa participated in a ministerial-level roundtable titled 'Implementing COP28 Decisions in the Energy Sector – Opportunities, Barriers, and Next Steps: The Way Ahead'. Furthermore, the delegation held meetings with leading companies such as Siemens and Airbus, addressing topics such as renewable energy, hydrogen supply chains, carbon management, e-mobility, and charging infrastructure.

Balalaa also met with Jennifer Morgan, Special Envoy for International Climate Policy and State Secretary and commended Germany's pivotal role in driving the global energy transition dialogue and discussed plans to advance commitments on Loss and Damage.

Balalaa's discussions with Stefan Wenzel,

Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, focused on investment opportunities of UAE investment funds such as Masdar in offshore wind parks in the North Sea and Baltic Sea.

In his meeting with Dr. Juergen Friedrich, Ministerial Envoy International Hydrogen Projects, both sides explored prospects for collaboration to advance hydrogen technologies and foster sustainable energy solutions between the two nations.

In a dialogue with Dr. Carsten Rolle, MD of the World Energy Council – Germany, the two sides highlighted collaboration between the UAE and Germany during COP28 and discussed developments in Germany's climate policies.

Balalaa's participation underscores the UAE's commitment to international cooperation in advancing energy transition and sustainability efforts.

Word Scramble

CNELA
 IAOSF
 ARWET
 USASNIT
 ETSERDS
 EIESIRHSF
 EWSTA
 PTRTOEC

60

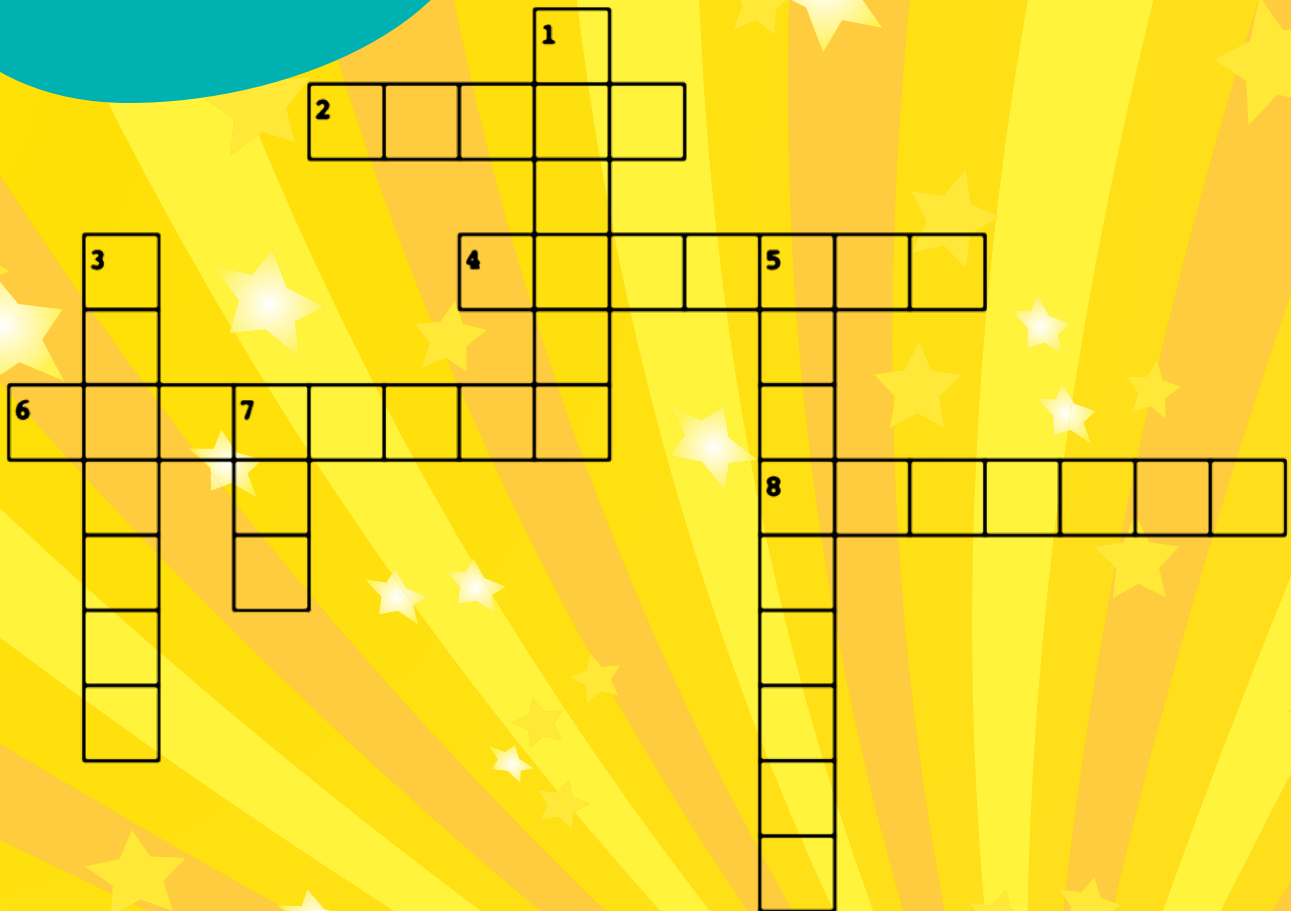
ANSWERS: 1) WATER 2) WASTE 3) FISHERIES 4) DESERTS 5) OASIS 6) SUSTAIN 7) PROTECT 8) CLEAN

Word Search

E	C	P	S	N	O	O	V	R	N	R	C	W	M
O	N	L	E	T	Y	T	R	R	I	E	N	I	A
V	E	A	V	N	O	E	L	A	A	L	E	L	O
C	E	S	R	L	A	R	I	C	R	S	F	D	C
E	E	T	E	E	R	U	M	E	E	C	C	L	E
A	A	I	S	O	L	A	C	S	V	E	S	I	A
R	R	C	E	R	T	I	P	P	D	R	A	F	N
T	N	S	R	E	T	A	R	O	P	A	V	E	S
H	S	A	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	E	C	U	E
H	V	V	E	G	A	N	I	S	M	V	R	R	L
C	A	E	M	E	L	A	H	S	E	E	T	R	E
R	A	R	W	L	R	T	I	L	R	E	C	R	L
D	T	N	S	N	W	P	O	L	L	U	T	E	P
I	U	W	A	L	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	G	L

VEGANISM
 STORMS
 OCEANS
 RAIN
 EVAPORATE
 EARTH
 POLLUTE
 PLASTIC
 RESERVE
 WILDLIFE
 RECYCLE
 UNIVERSE

Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. Biodegrade
4. A workplace where fish are caught, processed and sold
6. Keep in safety and protect from harm, decay, loss, or destruction
8. Make impure

Down

1. A severe shortage of food
3. A shortage of rainfall
5. Cause to change into a vapor
7. The star around which our planetary system revolves

ANSWERS: 1) FAMINE 2) DECAY 3) DROUGHT 4) FISHERY 5) EVAPORATE 6) CONSERVE 7) SUN 8) POLLUTE



WORD OF THE DAY:

NET ZERO EMISSIONS

As you probably know by now, carbon dioxide emissions are the main cause of climate change. Every time we burn fossil fuels, drive our cars, and even grow our vegetables, we release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases are warming our planet. And the more greenhouse gases we send to the atmosphere, the warmer the Earth will get.

Global warming can also cause what we call 'extreme weather events' such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts. These can lead many animals to migrate in search of cooler places to live and it can also put a lot of species at risk of extinction. Finally, global warming is impacting humans as well, making it harder for us to grow food which leaves more people hungry. And just like animals, global warming is forcing people to migrate somewhere else.

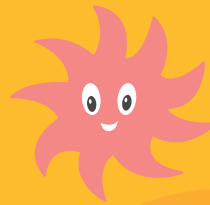
To avoid all of this, in 2015, 196 countries around the world signed the Paris Agreement, promising to work together to reduce their emissions and keep the rise in global temperatures well below 2 degrees Celsius. To do this, many nations have set goals to meet 'carbon neutrality'. Reaching 'net-zero emissions' means that they now have to drastically cut the amount of emissions they produce down to as close to zero, and remove emissions from the atmosphere.

There are many ways to remove carbon from the atmosphere. We can plant more trees which absorb CO₂ and release oxygen. We can capture some carbon from power stations before it goes into the atmosphere, and emissions can be treated to produce hydrogen.

However, as well as trying to take CO₂ out of the atmosphere, it's important to reduce the amount of CO₂ that we are putting into it in the first place. So that could be reducing our reliance on fossil fuels which produce high carbon emissions and switching to renewable greener sources.



For instance, the movement of waves and a windmill's sails power turbines which can produce electricity. Solar panels use special cells which can capture the energy from the sun and change it into heat and light – all helping us to reach our net zero goals.



EARTH DAY APRIL 22

Our planet is an amazing place, but it needs our help to thrive! That's why each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from things like pollution and deforestation. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, when a United States senator from Wisconsin organized a national demonstration to raise awareness about environmental issues. Rallies took place across the country and, by the end of the year, the U.S. government had created the Environmental Protection Agency. By 1990, Earth Day was an event celebrated by more than 140 countries around the globe.

EARTHDAY.ORG, the global organizer of Earth Day, has announced the global theme for Earth Day 2024: Planet vs. Plastics.

Planet vs. Plastics unites students, parents, businesses, governments, churches, unions, individuals, and NGOs in an unwavering

commitment to call for the end of plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of plastics by 2040 and an ultimate goal of building a plastic-free future for generations to come.

To achieve a 60% reduction by 2040, EARTHDAY.ORG's goals are: (1) promoting widespread public awareness of the damage done by plastic to human, animal, and all biodiversity's health and demanding more research be conducted on its health implications, including the release of any and all information regarding its effects to the public; (2) rapidly phasing out all single use plastics by 2030 and achieving this phase out commitment in the United Nations Treaty on Plastic Pollution in 2024; (3) demanding policies ending the scourge of fast fashion and the vast amount of plastic it produces and uses; and (4) investing in innovative technologies and materials to build a plastic-free world.



and 75% of the Adelie penguins will likely decline or disappear if global average temperatures rise above pre-industrial levels by just 2 degrees C—a scenario that could be reached in less than 40 years.

APRIL 25 WORLD PENGUIN DAY

Observed around the world on April 25th, World Penguin Day recognizes one of the unique birds on the planet. There are 18 species of penguins, and all their natural habitats are in the Southern hemisphere. This day is when the Adelie penguins begin their migration north toward Antarctica.

Climate change is a growing concern for penguins that live in Antarctica—the emperor penguin and the Adelie penguin. These species depend on sea ice for access to food and for places to breed. But the sea ice has been disappearing, and penguin populations along with it. A 2008 WWF study estimated that 50% of the emperor penguins

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Things to Do...

- ☒ Use both sides of a sheet of paper
- ☒ Carry a reusable water bottle around
- ☒ Use the metro
- ☒ Avoid single use tissues and wipes
- ☒ Volunteer for a clean-up drive!

COLOUR ME!



NYUAD announces winners of 'UAE Electric Vehicle Grand Prix'

New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) has announced the winners of the second edition of the UAE Electric Vehicle Grand Prix (UAE EVGP) for high school students.

The winning teams from Shenandoah Valley Virginia, Al Ittihad Private School, and Harissonburg High School were ranked based on the most laps completed at the race. The race was held at Al Forsan International Sports Resort in Abu Dhabi and drew more than 450 participating high school students.

The US team from Shenandoah Valley in Virginia joined as an independent team and won first place after completing 32 laps on a single battery charge. Second place overall and first place in the UAE was awarded to Ittihad Private School with 30 laps.

Teams from schools in the UAE received awards in 12 of the 13 categories. UAE school teams placed first in the best performing new team, car workmanship, technical innovation, innovation in

3D printing, best car graphics, best video, best photo, and the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) award.

The UAE EVGP 2024 was co-organised by Global EEE and 3elm Education and Training in partnership with the US Mission in the UAE, NYU Abu Dhabi, ProjoTech, Al Forsan International Sports Resort, and PepsiCo.

The panel of judges comprised leading experts from the private sector, academia, and government, including representatives from the US Department of Transportation and the Washington DC Department of Energy and Environment.

NYU Abu Dhabi Vice Chancellor Mariët Westermann said, "It is inspiring to see high school students combine academic learning with hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics concepts in an exciting real-world context."



Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed Intl. Foundation
for the Environment

Founding Chairperson
of Bi'ati Organization

ALTÉRRRA: A catalyst for sustainable living in the Global South

66

GREEN FLASH

The UAE has once again responded to the urgent call for climate action by instituting a first-of-its-kind investment vehicle called ALTÉRRRA to make finance available, accessible, and affordable, especially for countries in the Global South as they journey towards achieving net zero goals. This initiative not only signifies the UAE's commitment to combating climate change but also holds the potential to drive sustainable living opportunities for communities in the Global South.

ALTÉRRRA, which supports energy transition and decarbonizing projects in developing economies, also has the potential to catalyze transformative change in vulnerable communities. Finance is key to create a more resilient and equitable world but the cornerstone of sustainable development lies in meaningfully addressing and integrating environmental challenges and the social dimensions of those challenges. When finance is directed towards uplifting peoples' lives and livelihoods, it encompasses food systems, water security, nature and health, improving both environmental health and social well-being.

Investing in human development and community empowerment is not only compatible with climate action but also enhances its effectiveness and

sustainability. Strong, resilient communities are better equipped to adapt to climate change impacts and implement climate-resilient practices. By building human capacity and fostering social cohesion, we can create the enabling conditions for climate action to take root and flourish at the grassroots level.

Alongside financing climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, committing a portion of the fund to initiatives aimed at empowering local stakeholders will enable them to take ownership of their development priorities by leveraging indigenous knowledge and expertise. This paves the way for inclusive participation, gender equality, and social cohesion that not only addresses immediate needs but also fosters resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change impacts.

Through ALTÉRRRA, the UAE's wise leadership has provided an opportunity to harness the transformative power of the fund for the betterment of humanity and the planet. With ALTÉRRRA, we can build a future where every individual can thrive, and every community is empowered to shape its own destiny.



Zayed International Prize for the Environment

Together for a green century

THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment