



## QUOTE OF THE EDITION:

"Since its establishment, the United Arab Emirates embraced sustainable efforts to achieve balance between the economic and social growth and preserving its cultural, social and environmental heritage to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations."

– H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates.

# Inside SCI

**Sustainable Campus Initiative Newsletter**  
Ensuring Sustainable Footprint!

## Opening note:

### Tipping point of the Planet's Crises- Earth day 2021

For over 50 years, nations around the world mark Earth day on April 22nd, which signifies the growing strength of the global environmental movement and the urgent action needed. In 1970, several studies revealed that environmental and public health is at risk from the consumption of leaded gas, automobiles, major oil spills, and deteriorating air and water quality, and things have only worsened since.

As a result, individuals, organizations, communities, and governments have progressed their efforts towards tackling and mitigating the impact of human activity, while also rationalising resource consumption.

As a part of Abu Dhabi's ongoing commitment to preserve the environment, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has introduced a policy for the reduction of single-use plastic and aims to make Abu Dhabi free of single-use plastic by 2022, which is aligned simultaneously with the sustainable development goal 12 – responsible production and consumption and other SDG's.

For more information visit:

<https://www.ead.gov.ae/storage/SINGLE%20USE%20PLASTIC%20POLICY%20FINAL%20ENGLISH%20313.pdf>

Now more than ever, the state of our planet requires attention. Let us join hands, even virtually, to publicize our efforts and demonstrate our commitment to restoring the health of our planet. For more inspiration on ways to celebrate, visit the link below: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/>



## Sponsors Welcome:

Borouge, a joint venture between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Austria-based Borealis, is a leading contributor to innovative plastic solutions for various industries. Borouge endorses the protection of human wellbeing, resource optimisation, and knowledge building to support new opportunities among community members.

As a provider of plastic and chemical products, Borouge commits to sustainability principles and proactively addresses environmental issues, such as water sanitation and the safe management of chemicals. In alignment with the vision of Borouge to positively impact society today and tomorrow, we have partnered with SCI for over five years to build leadership capacity among the youth.

“At Borouge we are proud of our commitment to sustainability in everything we do. Through our long-standing engagement with Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) we inspire today’s youth to understand and adopt sustainability principles to protect our precious environment and empower our community,” said Maitha Al Marashi, VP Sustainability, Borouge.





# SCI in Action

## Live with SCI – Waste and Minimalism

On March 18th, 63 participants attended an interactive live session to share their concerns relating to the accumulation of household items and waste with the Green Youth Majlis (GYM) team, Mariam Al Marzooqi, Amal Khalid, Fatima Yousef, and Megna Rajagopal. GYM members shared statistics highlighting the amounts of waste generated in households and how these items can cause harmful air emissions. A UN statistic shows that an average citizen in UAE generates approximately 17.2 kg of e-waste, resulting in approximately 900,000 tonnes in 2020 and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization announced that about 40 to 50% of fruits and vegetables end up in the bin.

Green Youth Majlis Members shared possible solutions like economical purchases and decluttering personal belongings, by considering the quality, lifespan, and efficiency of items and donating to those in need. She also reminded participants to embrace the belongings they wish to keep and let go of things that may no longer be useful but a blessing for others.

GREEN  
YOUTH  
MAJLIS  
المجلس  
الأخضر  
للشباب

## Youth in Circular Economy

On March 31, 2021, the SCI outreach team held an environmental youth talk entitled “Promoting Circular Economy for Sustainable Development” with the presence of 76 people, to encourage youth involvement in greener practices, career paths, and businesses. The talk commenced with guest speaker, Mohamed Mosa, Senior Specialist in Waste Policy and Regulations at Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi, who explained the efficiency of circular economy in terms of waste. Mohamed Mosa said, “it allows us to create more with less and deliver greater value with less input.”

The discussion continued with Maitha Al Marashi, Vice President of Sustainability at Borouge, explaining Borouge’s efforts to drive circular economy by implementing best practices in sustainable operations and by collaborating with entities to create solutions.

Mohammed Chaker, Associate Professor of Finance at Ajman University, reflected on economic case studies around plastic pollution and how eliminating single use plastic can benefit not only the environment but also worldwide economies.

In the closing statement, Khansa Al Blouki, Outreach Director at Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi, inspired youth to partake in circular economy and explore contributions that lead to better and more sustainable environments, while boosting markets.

# Eco Pedestal



## Happiness and Well-being in Higher Education



This month's Eco Pedestal showcases Higher Colleges of Technology for hosting a virtual emotional intelligence conference entitled "Happiness and Well-being in Higher Education", between February 18 and 20, 2021, which was attended by over 2000 participants and featured over 104 local and international speakers.

The hosts and participants discussed various globally relevant topics ranging from acquiring positive mindsets, to sustainability, health, and wellness, and even career development. The online conference aimed at exchanging knowledge and igniting further discussions among youth about emotional intelligence and sustainability amidst the pandemic.

For more information about the conference, visit: <https://hct.ac.ae/en/events/1st-emotional-intelligence-conference/>



# Eco Watch

## A Gift that keeps Giving



*April 18 – 19, 2021 at 4:00 – 6:00 pm*

Green Youth Majilis and Zayed Higher Organization will be hosting a virtual sewing workshop titled “A Bag of Gratitude”, hosted by Christine Wilson, Owner and CEO of Peahead, a recycling brand that uses excess material to create reusable shopping bags under their Ramadan Campaign this year. Participating members will have a helping hand online as they create shopping bags and donate or gift them to orphans during the Holy month. The session not only promotes circular economy, but also encourages users to begin their environmental journey. Hurry up and book a slot as there are only 15 places! Register via email by sharing your name, address, and telephone number at: [Sustainablecampus@ead.gov.ae](mailto:Sustainablecampus@ead.gov.ae)

## Earth Day - Zero Waste Sustainable Living



*April 22, 2021 at 4:00 - 5:00 pm on Zoom*

To celebrate Earth day, the Sustainable Campus Initiative (SCI) team is hosting a virtual session with Alia Al Blooshi, Sustainability Activist and Social media Influencer, who will share creative tips and practices to encourage youth to start a zero-waste lifestyle, by reducing resources, reusing, and creating household sustainable alternatives.

For this year's theme and updates about Earth Day, visit:

<https://www.moccae.gov.ae/ar/about-ministry/moew-events.aspx#page=1>



# Green Space:

## Gratitude for Mother Nature

To mark Earth Day, we are giving the SCI network an opportunity to express their appreciation for nature by sharing a quote or image showcasing our planet's magical wonders. To share your quote or image, send us an email at [sustainablecampus@ead.gov.ae](mailto:sustainablecampus@ead.gov.ae) to be featured in next month's newsletter and our social media channels!

There are so many items in our homes that we do not really use but are needed by others. Are you ready to lead a minimalist lifestyle and help others? SCI is inviting youth to begin their journey by decluttering their homes and donating items to less fortunate community members. To inspire others to join the movement, share an image or video and include the hashtag #SCIminialism and tag @SCI\_UAE and @Greenyouthmajlis!

## Connect with SCI

Join our network and stay updated with all things sustainable at:

- Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/greenyouthmajlis/about/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Sustainable-Campus-Initiative-100339758483754/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sustainablecampusae/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/greenyouthmajlis/?hl=en>

And follow our movement through our hashtags #SustainableCampus #UAEYouth!



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