



Green Generation

An Environmental Magazine from BSOE

ISSUE 02

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A Letter from the BSOE Team

One of the most discussed topics relating to the environment over the last few decades has been about the correlation between man-made pollution and climate change. In our own bid to make a small contribution to this ongoing debate, this edition of Green Generation will be making "Climate Change Caused by Air Pollution" a core theme – throughout our second issue.

While various interest groups still compete to make their points and counter points regarding the effects of air pollution and climate change, it is clear that a large body of evidence increasingly indicates that significant changes in the world's climate have been noted since the outset of the Industrial Revolution. This has been correspondingly compounded by the exponential growth of the global population over the last 100 years.

As the education arm of the company, the Bee'ah School of Environment (BSOE) takes its responsibility for reaching out to the general public and, in particular, the younger generation as one of its key priorities in spreading the message on how our impact on the environment can be reduced.

Regards,



The Bee'ah School of Environment



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A WORD FROM OUR CHAMPIONS

an Outstanding Student...

Why is it important to conserve energy?

Buckminster Fuller said and I quote, "The best way to predict the future is to design it", I second his thought and admire his great gesture. It's true that we reap what we sow; the future is thus how we mould it to be.

Sustainable energy has been subjected to heated debates and discussions but to successfully tackle the problem at hand we need to completely realize what's at stake. I myself came to ponder upon this when recently I experienced a power shortage for a mere amount of 3 hours and I found myself incapable of entertainment, studies or even rest as everything seemed to depend upon electricity. I wondered and imagined what the world would be without energy. Would development come to a standstill? Would our growth become stagnant? It is necessary that we start limiting our use and find better alternative means to satisfy our demands and this is exactly what Bee'ah has been striving to achieve and has helped me achieve.

The earth belongs to all of us, and so does its responsibility, but the fact that people at Bee'ah have taken this job upon themselves, made it their life's work really inspires me to walk their path too. Saving our resources should thus not become an act but a habit. So do the best you can until you know better, then when you know better, do better. Because our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Hafsah Areen
10 D
Delhi Private School, Sharjah

an Outstanding Teacher...

The best ways to promote environmental awareness among children at home and school

Environmental awareness is the individual's awareness of his role in preserving the environment and understanding its problems. The objective of environmental awareness is that the individual becomes aware of the importance of the environment, and how his actions affect it.

Environmental awareness among humans is formed at an early age, that's why we must work with children to raise their environmental awareness and help them understand their responsibility in using the resources that they already have. Studies have shown that a large proportion of environmental problems and damage is due to the lack of environmental awareness among individuals, so it has become an urgent need to educate the community about the importance of preserving and protecting the environment.

Some of the best ways to promote environmental awareness both in school and at home are:

School:

1. Instilling proper environmental values in children through workshops aimed at re-using waste materials they have gathered themselves and brought with them to school.
2. Spreading environmental knowledge at school by sourcing local community institutions to inform and educate children on the importance of preserving the environment by conducting workshops, providing instructions and distributing flyers.

Home:

1. Educating the children about the importance of rationing in energy consumption at home and reducing the consumption of water and electricity.
2. Using or buying recycled and environmentally friendly products.

Fatima Abo Shlaiby
Al Qarayan Kindergarten

GREEN CHALLENGE

Fix the jumbled word:

1. Factory smoke, chemical waste, and cars causes lloputnoi
2. Plastic bottles, papers and cans should be placed in eringcycl bins.
3. Plants need water, air, and lsoi in order to survive
4. We must save animals from tincextion
5. Farmers use ticpesides to kill insects
6. Recyclables should be placed in the uelb bin
7. We should plant trees in order to get ynexog
8. The increased temperature of the earth's surface is called global gwranim
9. Solar panels are an alternative source of nygere
10. The 3 Rs are: ecudre, reuse, recycle

Answers:

1- Pollution	2- Recycling	3- Soil	4- Extinction	5- Pesticides	6- Blue	7- Oxygen	8- Warming	9- Energy	10- Reduce
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HELLO
my name is



1. Tell us a little bit about Al Zahia

Al Zahia is Sharjah's first gated, master planned residential community strategically situated in New Sharjah. An oasis of calm away from the bustle of city life, the development is close to Healthcare City, University City, the school district, the neighbouring Al Qarayan district and adjacent to the planned City Centre Al Zahia. Combining beautiful homes with a thriving community in a progressive and contemporary setting master planned around open green spaces and themed parks, Al Zahia is a place where GCC and Arab nationals aspire to live.

2. Are environmental practices important to you?

Absolutely, sustainability and environmental practices are at the core of our project, from design all the way to development we have used locally sourced materials at every stage possible. In line with the Sharjah government's commitment to environmental sustainability, Majid Al Futtaim properties has designed and built Al Zahia along the exacting standards outlined for BREEAM certification, which is the world's leading sustainability accreditation system for master planned projects, infrastructure and buildings. In the area of water efficiency, we have implemented irrigation methods to reduce water usage and have selected plants with low water requirements for the gardens. In order to promote the reduced use of cars, we have designed walkable neighbourhoods with shade covered footpaths and green links, and we have a planned bus route that connects directly with the public transport system.

3. Do the residents practice the 3R's at your community?

Yes, our residents and clients always support our sustainability practices and initiatives by reducing their waste, reusing where possible and recycling. In order to assist with this process, we have provided easily accessible recycling bins from Bee'ah throughout



the community. We believe that the way to ensure <green behaviour> is to lead by example. We also regularly set up events to raise awareness. For example, in honour of UNEP World Environment Day in June, we highlighted our efforts to reuse rain and wastewater for irrigation initiatives, which reduces water consumption by up to 25%. Tangible results like that really encourage people to take the 3R's seriously.

4. How do you encourage the kids living in your community to practice the 3R's?

We have a very active community at Al Zahia and have set up open and robust communication channels with regular mail outs and messages. Many of those communications are focused on sustainability and the 3R's, with requests for parents to pass that learning onto their children. However, we are aware that the easiest way for kids to learn is through fun activities, so we set up a range of events and initiatives throughout the year related to environment learning for families to attend. Last year, the Bee'ah School of Environment organized an environmental Family Fun Day for all of the children in our community. Until now, we're still hearing about how much fun they had!



5. How often do you organise activities for the kids in your community?

At least three times per year. That sense of community is really important to us, and we like to get the families out and about and enjoying the fresh air. Our latest activity for the kids was a wonderfully nostalgic ice-cream van, which rolled around the neighbourhood, jingling out that traditional ice-cream van tune. Nothing stops children in their tracks quite like the sound of an ice-cream van – it was very well received.

6. What's the best part about living in Al Zahia?

The feeling of a secure community surrounded by like-minded neighbours. Al Zahia is the ultimate destination for people looking for a home that offers safety and peace of mind set against a cultural backdrop steeped in traditional values. It is a place where husbands and wives can comfortably stroll around and meet friends while their children play in the street – a family-friendly community that offers peace of mind to parents by prioritising the safety, security and well-being of their children. It offers all the benefits of a traditional residential dwelling combined with a host of exemplary community amenities including pools, playgrounds and fitness facilities all located in beautiful, landscaped settings. The homes are superbly designed and the surrounding grounds serve to enhance that sense of belonging to an exclusive community within Sharjah.

FROM WASTE TO ART

Materials needed:

Plastic or glass jar with lid
Colors
Brushes
Cutter



01 Paint the entire outer surface of the jar with any color you like.



02 Let it dry for at least 30 minutes.



03 Personalize your jar by drawing a smiley face on it.



04 Make a hole in the lid and paint it with a different color.



05 Place your stationary inside the jar and use it as a pen holder!



HOW TO

Simply and effectively change your home into a “green home”



One of the biggest obstacles that advocates of environmental change say they encounter when talking to the general public is that there is a sense that making any sort of change is often perceived as too costly or inconvenient. In this edition of “How To:” we hope to offer a few simple and easy things that can be done in your home – the idea being that even small changes count towards achieving a greater goal. That is to say that if everyone in the UAE made even just these five small changes to their routine and home management, the results and impact would be hugely significant.

Here’s a top five list to get you started:

1. Switch your household cleaning products



Making a switch from your current cleaning products to “greener” products that provide the same function is a great way to reduce air pollution, both within your home and in terms of the wider environment. Breathing in chemicals can trigger asthma and is generally harmful to health irrespective of any allergies or health conditions.

Tip: Look for products that state they use “plant-based” ingredients

2. Upgrade your insulation



Effective insulation in your home can reduce your power consumption (and energy bills!) by as much as 20-30 per cent. While many new residential projects increasingly use the latest insulation materials to maintain cooling for longer periods, some of the UAE’s older buildings may need some additional help in this regard.

Tip: If a total overhaul of your home’s insulation is beyond your budget then thermal shades for the windows and simple draft excluders placed at the bottom of doors can help.

3. Donate used clothing

It has been estimated that the simple act of donating one item of clothing can have as much impact as reducing carbon emissions created for new products by 27 pounds of CO2.

Of course, this is not just an environmental thing; it's an act of social responsibility that is appreciated by many less fortunate people. There are few times when you can actually see the real life effect of your actions, this is one of them.

Tip: Get donating!



4. Select fragrance-free products

Conventional perfumes and fragrances often contain chemicals that are difficult to process and are harmful to the eco-system when washed down the drain.

Tip: While no one is suggesting that we abandon cleanliness, if you like perfumed soaps or cleaning products then always look on the label to check if they are derived from "essential oils".

5. Reduce the use of aerosols and pesticides

If you have ever been unfortunate enough to suffer from a pest invasion in your home then you will, no doubt, have employed the use of pesticide sprays. While this can resolve an issue, temporarily, prevention is often the best cure.

Tip: Ask a pest control expert to evaluate your home and they will often advise you to seal holes or cracks in the walls, skirting or foundations of your home. While providing a more long-term solution to pest problems, it is a better way for reducing the use of air-polluting, aerosol sprays.

BE FEATURED



المدرسة الأمريكية للإبداع العلمي الفائزة بالمركز الأول في فئة أفضل فيلم بيئي في جائزة الشارقة للوعي البيئي

American School of Creative Science 1st place winner in the Best Environmental Movie category in the Sharjah Environment Awareness Award.



مدرسة الوحدة الخاصة الفائزة بالمركز الثاني في فئة أفضل فيلم بيئي في جائزة الشارقة للوعي البيئي
Al Wahda Private School 2nd place winner in the Best Environmental Movie category in the Sharjah Environment Awareness Award



مدرسة الصحو الفائزة بالمركز الأول في مسابقة المدارس لإعادة التدوير
Al Sahwa School 1st place winner in the Inter-School Recycling Competition

قراءة في القصص لقصصنا البيئية الجديدة يوم افتتاح دار كلمات للنشر للمقهى الأدبي «مكتبة»
Reading of our new environmental stories at the launch of Kalimat's literary café "Maktaba" in Al Qasba



عرض مسرح العرائس خلال
مهرجان الماركة القرائي للطفل
المستوحى من الشخصيات
الموجودة في القصص البيئية
الجديدة لدينا

A puppet show at the
Sharjah Children's Reading
Festival inspired by the
characters from our new
environmental stories

