

July 2016 | Vol.2 | Issue 16

AL SIDRAH Newsletter

MISSION

Uniqueness in providing, monitoring and environmental awareness services through the application of laws and regulations and investing relationship with partners and conduct studies and research that contribute to the protection of our natural resources.

VISION

Protection of the environment & sustainability of resources.

Green Turtle conservation

In continuing with its efforts to conserve marine ecosystems and species, EPDA collaborated with EWS-WWF and RAK Tourism Authority to launch a turtle tagging initiative near Al Jazeera port, Khor Al Muzhahmi, in June 2016. This initiative aims to monitor Green turtles, given their strategic importance as migratory animals and helping maintain the balance of the marine environment. It also coincided with World Environment Day 2016, which falls on the fifth of June each year under the slogan "Let's fight for the protection of wildlife". 18 Green turtles were fitted with satellite transmitters to help identify important turtle areas off the coast of the UAE, and possible migration routes, and tagged with metal flipper tag to recognize them in the future. Tissue samples were also taken from the turtles for continued scientific studies.

In order to gather data from a larger number of samples, a second tagging event for 11 turtles was held in July 2016. EPDA coordinated with EWS-WWF and RAK Tourism Authority to organize this event.



EPDA Executive Director at a UNEP meeting in Nairobi

EPDA Executive Director Dr. Saif Mohammed Al Ghais was a member of the UAE delegation headed by His Excellency Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, attending the Second Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) held in Nairobi from May 23-27, 2016. The UNEA of UNEP represents the highest level of governance of international environmental affairs in the UN system as the platform for the development of environmental policies, programmes and initiatives at the global level. This meeting was attended by 194 countries, including 120 ministers.





EPDA participated in the RAK eGovernment Platform for Smart Services launched by RAK eGovernment Authority on Wednesday July 27, 2016. This event was held in Manar Mall till August 2, 2016, and it aims at transforming the Ras Al Khaimah community to a smart society in all aspects related to government organization services. The procedures for industries to obtain their environmental license through the e-Government website was displayed and explained. One of the most important services that customers can avail through this website is a request for a new license or its renewal. 90% of the EPDA's services are now provided electronically.



EPDA helping improve quality of life for fishermen in Ras Al Khaimah

Since June 2016, fishermen from the ports of Ras Al Khaimah , Al Jazeerah Al Hamra , Ghalila and Al Jeer were provided with additional facilities to carry out their fishing activities more efficiently. Fishermen interested in availing of the facility had to register themselves with EPDA.

Storage facility for their fishing equipment and gear, and docking facility for their boats were provided in order for them prepare for their activities in a more safe environment.

In addition, accommodation was also made available to these fishermen with basic facilities like a bed, mattress, and closet. So far 182 fishermen workers have registered in the Ras Al Khaimah port , and 85 in the Al Jazeera Al Hamra port, however in Ghalila port there are 216 workers and Al Jeer 75 .



EPDA supports Health awareness campaign by Medical District of RAK

EPDA staff participated in the "Let's go to them when they are healthy, before they turn patients" campaign by the Medical District of RAK on July 13, 2016. Health authorities carried out a free examination of blood pressure, blood sugar, height, and weight of EPDA staff at EPDA office.

EPDA recognized for Environmental Sustainability

The Arab Organisation for Social Responsibility held its third scientific forum in the field of social responsibility – Environmental responsibility for us all – at the Al Bustan Rotana Hotel in Dubai on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

Competent officials and experts from different Arab countries participated in this forum.

Environment Protection and Development Authority (EPDA)'s 'One million One tree' initiative was recognized at this forum and awarded the Golden Shield and a Certificate of Excellence in environmental sustainability. Dr. Saif Al Ghais, Executive Director of EPDA received the award. This initiative aims to make Ras Al Khaimah a green city as well as promote sustainable management of biodiversity.



EPDA to coordinate with RAK Customs Department.

EPDA's Executive Director Dr. Saif Al Ghais had a coordination meeting with RAK Customs Department to discuss the procedures for authorization of hazardous materials and chemicals. Some of the issues discussed were training of customs officers, creating a list of restricted items, hiring a point of contact at EPDA for the Customs Department and link EPDA online system with RAK Customs Department

EPDA Participated in UAE's Humanitarian Work Day

EPDA Participated in UAE's Humanitarian Work Day which is observed in the UAE on the 19th day of Ramadan every year in memory of the founder of the UAE federation, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who passed away on this day. To mark the day this year, the Ministry of Health organized an event at the Al Corniche Hall in the Al Corniche area in Ras Al Khaimah on Friday, June 24, 2016.

EPDA participated in this event by distributing gifts to orphaned children, and it was a pleasure to see the joy and delight on their faces



EPDA recognized by Emirates Association for Social Development

EPDA was recognized by Emirates Association for Social Development for its participation in the Social Excellence Award through the 'Best Environmental Practice' initiative. This Award was launched to promote the vision of the United Arab Emirates in achieving sustainable development, in line with the vision and direction of Ras Al Khaimah Government aiming for the protection of the environment and the sustainability of natural resources, and to support the goals of the strategic body of the relevant initiative towards increasing the level of environmental awareness and access to awareness-oriented programmes within the society.



Dubai to build world's concentrated solar power project on a single site

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority launched a new stage technology - a concentrated solar power plant with a capacity of 1000 megawatts within the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar complex - to be functional by 2030. This will be the largest solar energy project in the world in a single site, and will have a production capacity of 5000 megawatts by 2030.

This project follows the resounding success achieved by Dubai in the field of solar power as part of Dubai's Clean Energy 2050 strategy, which aims to provide 7 percent of Dubai's energy from clean energy sources by 2020, 25 percent by 2030, and 75 percent by 2050.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority has asked the world's leading consulting firms to submit their offers for the holding of consulting services for the first phase of this concentrated solar power plant with a capacity of 200 megawatts. This phase will come into operation by April 2021.



Green Cement: What the world can learn from Dubai buildings

Dubai Municipality offered its experience in sustainable concrete at a workshop held during Conference USA, which was attended by over 300 specialists and scientists in different concrete techniques from several countries such as the USA, a few European countries, China, Japan and some Arab countries .

Dubai Municipality presented the environmental disadvantages associated with the use of ordinary cement, and why it is considered as non-eco-friendly, given that the cement industry and its applications result in the emission of carbon dioxide and other toxic substances in huge quantities, thus polluting the environment, and affecting public health and safety.

Dubai Municipality also put out results of research conducted in buildings and construction sites, and the application of best international practices in building constructions, and highlighted the mandatory use of green cement in all its recent infrastructure developments.

The workshop also put forth the main benefits of using green cement, which includes prolonging the life of buildings by more than 40 per cent, in addition to preserving its environment, health and safety.



Masdar Institute develops smart mosque systems to reduce energy consumption

Masdar Institute of Science and Technology has come up with a 'smart mosques' project that focuses on the use of advanced sensor technology and a sophisticated software designed to save energy consumption in mosques in a big way, and turn them into smart facilities. Sensors will be placed around the mosque to determine the periods during which the mosque capacity goes high. Accordingly, the air conditioners are programmed to cool the premises gradually without resorting to rapid cooling, a process that consumes a lot of energy, as well as turning off at a pre-determined time when the mosque population thins off.

Masdar Institute is cooperating with the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments in the United Arab Emirates for this project within mosques in Abu Dhabi.

Currently this project is being tested in two mosques in Abu Dhabi - Al Fath Mosque and Al Haq Mosque.

Sharjah keeps desertification at bay

Ahead of the UN's World Day to Combat Desertification, their officials said that ecological groups and authorities in Sharjah are making headway against desertification by planting greenery to keep land erosion at bay.

The Environment & Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in Sharjah has initiated many reforestation campaigns across the Emirate of Sharjah, including the protected areas in Al Batayeh, Al Ghaf and the mangrove areas. Wetland Education Centers in Khor Kalba and Al Wasit are designed to inform and educate the general public on the importance of conservation of wetlands.



Mumbai Metro to go green

Mumbai Metro has decided to set up rooftop solar panels at all 12 stations along the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar corridor and the depot, as well as install LED lights at all stations to conserve electricity.

The generated solar power is expected to meet 30% of Metro's total 6.9MW auxiliary power requirement for non-traction use, such as lights, air-conditioning and maintenance of stations.

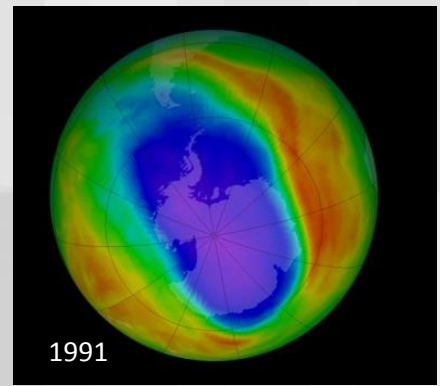


Clean energy powering Sainsbury's and Nestle operations

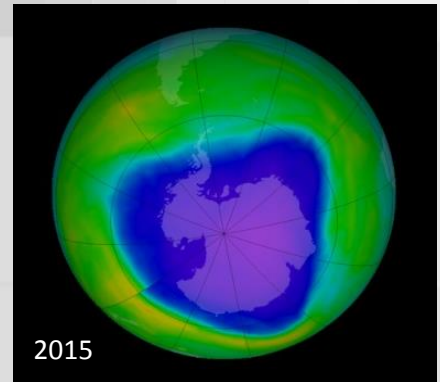
Nestle will have a new wind farm in Scotland designed to supply half the power needed for its UK operations. The wind farm is expected to produce around 125 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity a year, the amount needed to power 30,000 homes, all of which will be bought by Nestle to meet 50 per cent of its electricity needs in the UK and Ireland.

Meanwhile, Sainsbury's has become the first company in the world to introduce a refrigerated delivery truck cooled by a liquid nitrogen-powered engine, which eliminates all emissions associated with refrigeration.

The zero-emission cooling unit replaces the traditional diesel engine used to chill the vehicle.



1991



2015

Ozone hole shrinks over Antarctica

A recent study has revealed that the ozone hole above the Antarctic continent has begun to shrink, which is good news for the environment! The study found that the ozone hole has shrunk by 4 million square kilometers since 2000, and this downturn serves as a good backing for the major efforts pushing for lowering of the use of ozone-eating chemicals.

'Hot spot' trees to beat air pollution!

Amsterdam is experimenting with the prospect of installing 'intelligent' bird houses on trees around the Dutch capital, which offers free Wi-fi to passers-by free of charge when the air around is pure. The aim of this project is to encourage people to continue using clean public transport such as bicycles to reduce pollution levels.

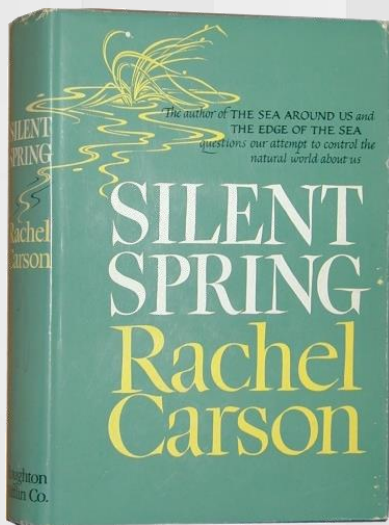


Trapping carbon dioxide underground

Scientists in Iceland are now able to store carbon dioxide in the form of fossilized carbonate minerals in the basalt rocks underground. This method has contributed to an effective means of reducing the concentration of this gas in the atmosphere, thus reducing global warming.

"The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river." ... *Ross Perot*

"What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another." ... *Chris Maser*



Silent Spring

Author : Rachel Carson

Silent Spring is a 1962 famous environmental science book by Rachel Carson. The book documented the detrimental effects on the environment—particularly on birds—of the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Carson accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation and public officials of accepting industry claims unquestioningly .

In the late 1950s, Carson turned her attention to conservation, especially environmental problems that she believed were caused by synthetic pesticides .The result was Silent Spring (1962), which brought environmental concerns to the American public. Silent Spring was met with fierce opposition by chemical companies, but it spurred a reversal in national pesticide policy, led to a nationwide ban on DDT for agricultural uses, and inspired an environmental movement that led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) EPA).

Do you know some of the UAE laws for fishing?!

- It is prohibited to hunt for sea turtles of all types and sizes and ages or even collect their eggs, or tamper with their breeding places on the beach.
- Fishing is prohibited in all nature reserve areas and along the corridors of underwater cables and Oil fields
- All fishermen must report their fishing trips with the Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority assigned in every port.
- It is forbidden to hunt for the following types of sharks - Manta Alfredi and Manta Birostris.



Green Tips

Keeping us fit and our environment healthy!!!

Going green isn't as tough as you think. Slowly make the switch by making lifestyle choices as you can and make them habits!

- Buy products that you can reuse and create less thrash in your home or office.
- Check and fix any water leaks.
- Clean or replace air filters on your air conditioning unit at least once a quarter.
- Close windows while driving at high speeds to reduce aerodynamic drag.
- Did you know that there are solar charger bags that can power up a laptop?
- Don't leave your phone charging all night. Most phones are charged within two hours.
- Every time you boil an egg, save the cooled water for your houseplants. They will benefit from the nutrients released from the shell.
- Prefer to walk to nearby destinations! This would help you save lots of power, reduce pollution and is good for health!

Tips for safety in industrial premises

- Storage of RAW materials and finished goods inside the shed.
- Paving of internal roads to avoid dust emissions.
- Regular cleaning of material handling area and spilled material .
- Regular spray of water on unpaved paths.
- Good encapsulation of production and packaging area to reduce noise pollution and emissions.
- Increase plantation inside the facility.
- Implementation of good HSE system to improve the environment quality for the people working in area.



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Contact us:

Tel: 07-2333371, Fax: 07-2333789, E-mail: info@epda.rak.ae