

AL SIDRAH

March 2017 | Vol.3 | Issue 3



In the framework of implementation of instructions of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Supreme Council Member & Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, to implement innovative programs aimed at achieving happiness for different sectors in the Emirate. EPDA Announced the launch of the Sustainable Agriculture Program in partnership with Utico.

Dr. Saif Al Ghais, Executive Director of EPA, said that the program is in line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member & Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, to ensure farmers' happiness and achieve food security for the UAE, through the implementation of innovative programs aimed at sustaining water resources and protecting groundwater from depletion and enhancing the competitiveness of national products.



EPDA began implementing intelligent inspector system (BIRQ) in early January 2017, in order to implement intelligent inspection services on professional establishments, craftsmanship and industry in the emirate. This smart application greatly saves time and increase the speed of licensing procedures also this application, supported by the geographical distribution of inspectors, where the Emirate was divided into a number of geographical areas and a specific area was assigned to each inspector who is present permanently. Since the launch of the application, 710 transactions have been carried out, release of 5 violations, directing 113 alarms and 667 facilities were inspected and found to comply with environmental laws and procedures.

EPDA Celebrates World Women's Day

The World celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March every year, which is an opportunity to reflect on the progress made by women in all fields. From this perspective, Dr. Saif Al-Ghais executive director participated the women employees in this day, surely that the role played by women and all the progress return to the sincere efforts made by The founder of the state and builder of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul, in support and empowerment of women. And he concluded his speech by saying, "I wish a bright future in which women will play an influential role that reinforces national trends and our ambitious vision for the future".



EPDA Celebrates World Day of Happiness

EPDA celebrated the "World Day of Happiness" through staff visit to the "Academy of Ras Al Khaimah for the talented" and the distribution of " Environmental Happiness Bag" to the talented students. Which decorated from outside by «Branches of the Sidr tree», to encourage and instill environmental love in children. If you love your environment you will feel happy.

VISION

Protection of the environment & sustainability of resources.

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.

Solar park to power 50,000 homes unveiled

The second phase of the Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park was inaugurated Monday by Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

The world's largest single-site solar park located near Al Qudra in Dubai can generate up to 200MW solar energy daily, enough to power 50,000 residences for one year. With more than 2.3 million thin-film photovoltaic panels spanning 4.5 square kilometres, the second phase can save annual carbon emissions of up to 214,000 tonnes.

The Dh1.2 billion project is part of a multiphase solar park that, when completed, can generate up to 1,000MW of clean energy by 2020 and up to 5,000MW electricity by 2030, with a total investment of Dh50 billion. It is one of the major projects of the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (Dewa).



Central control room to monitor quarry and crushing sites

Quarry operations and crusher works across the UAE will now be monitored from a central control room in Al Dhaid in Sharjah.

Dr Thani Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, launched the central control room for the telemonitoring of the quarry and crushing operations to promote environmental sustainability.

The control room established for the verification of the compliance of all relevant facilities with legislation as part of the Ministerial Decree No. 567 of 2014 regulating the installation, management and operation of quarries and crushers in the UAE.

Using a state-of-the-art monitoring system for industrial facilities, the control room enables the ministry to monitor various aspects of the operations, including ambient air quality and noise levels, through remotely operated cameras and other surveillance devices with superior accuracy and clarity.



The system minimizes effort and saves hours of work as it can monitor multiple facilities at a time. It also simplifies annual audits of the operations and helps ensure that all workers observe occupational health and safety requirements.

Through the system, violators will be quickly flagged, including those with excessive emissions of exhaust fumes from equipment and vehicles or dust from roads and operational areas to ensure compliance with the highest environmental standards.

As part of the 2017-2021 Operational Plan, the Department of Environmental Audit at the ministry, in coordination with local authorities, will continue to inspect quarries, crushers and cement factories on a monthly basis.

Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi organize Third Annual Conference for Sustainability

As part of its efforts to enhance the role of universities and colleges students in United Arab Emirates for environmental issues within Sustainable Universities Initiative, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi organized, third annual conference for teachers and students from different colleges and universities in United Arab Emirates under the slogan "The role of UAE universities Supporting the state's commitment to achieving sustainable development goals and Paris agreement"

Distinguished elite of deans of colleges and professors was participated in the conference, and young people who have made excellence efforts to promote environmental sustainability by collaborate with higher education institutions in the UAE.

This third annual conference is a continuation of the interactive meeting held in February 2016, which is a unique platform for participation to learn, sharing ideas, knowledge, discuss projects and successful experiences to achieve environmental sustainability in the UAE.

In addition, The conference aims to encourage research in sustainability field and shed light upon the important role played by universities to enhancing the vision of Abu Dhabi 2030. and achieving sustainable development goals.

Smog-hit Beijing plans 'green necklace' to block pollution

Beijing and the surrounding province of Hebei will plant trees, establish green belts and make use of rivers and wetlands to create a "green necklace" to protect China's smog-hit capital from pollution, the Hebei government said on Thursday.

Beijing's reputation as a major world city has been tarnished by regular outbreaks of hazardous smog, especially during the winter, and poorly regulated heavy industry in neighboring Hebei has been identified as one of the major culprits.

The Hebei government said in a notice published on its website (www.hebei.gov.cn) that it would raise forest coverage, expand ecological space and use the river systems,

mountains, wetlands and farms to establish new green belts around Beijing.

Policymakers are also trying to tackle the problem of overdevelopment and overpopulation in fast-growing Beijing itself, known as "big city syndrome", and the new cross-regional plan will aim to restrict urban development on the capital's borders.

The plan, which also set out new unified public service and transportation rules for Beijing and surrounding border areas, is part of the government's long-term "Jing-Jin-Ji" program to integrate Beijing, Hebei and the port city of Tianjin.

Madrid to Ban Old Cars by 2025 in Crackdown on Air Pollution

Madrid's city government announced plans on Monday to ban the oldest and most polluting vehicles from the city center by 2025 in a bid to crackdown on air pollution.

The local government will prohibit the use within the city's limits of gasoline cars registered before 2000 and diesel-powered cars registered before 2006, which at the moment account for 20 percent of all those registered.

The ban would lower nitrogen dioxide levels in the city by an estimated 15 percent, a poisonous gas behind respiratory problems, Madrid's local government said in a presentation.

Madrid has failed to meet European Union-set limits on air quality for the last eight years. Other European cities such as Paris and Berlin have already put similar plans in place to curb emissions.

"This is plan A for air quality in Madrid. It's plan A because there can't be any plan B," Madrid's mayor Manuela Carmen said at an event to present the new plan.

Madrid's local government has allocated 544 million euros (\$580.83 million) to completing 30 measures included in the plan, which also encourages greater use of renewable energy and regenerating urban areas, according to the presentation.

Vietnam seizes 100 kgs of rhino horn from Kenya

Vietnam police seized more than 100 kilograms of rhino horn smuggled into the country in suitcases from Kenya on Tuesday, the latest illegal haul in the wildlife trafficking hub.

Vietnam is a hot market for rhino horn, believed to have medicinal properties and is in high demand among the communist nation's growing middle class.

The country is a popular transit point for illegal animal products, which often move from Africa through Vietnam to other parts of Asia. The latest haul of the prized animal parts at Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport were found hidden in luggage on a flight from Nairobi, according to the official publication of the Hanoi police department.

"After scanning and checking, customs officials discovered the

two suitcases of 57 kilograms (125 pounds) and 61 kilograms were full of suspected rhino horns.

Conservationists have warned that rampant demand for rhino horn in China and Vietnam, where it is falsely believed to cure cancer and treat hangovers, is decimating African rhino populations. A single kilogram of rhino horn can fetch up to \$60,000 on the local market, according to reports.

Wild rhino populations have dwindled to just 29,000 from half a million at the beginning of the 20th century, according to the International Rhino Foundation. Trade in rhino horn was banned globally in 1977 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

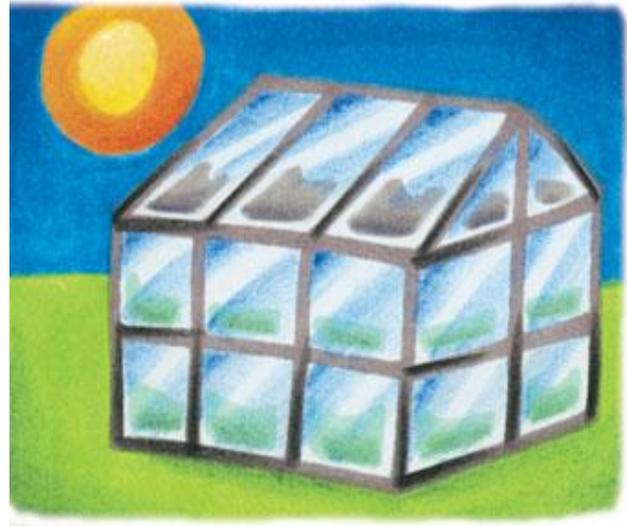


Behaviors of responsible personality

Global change is a global problem, however, each of us is able to contribute solving this problem. Even small changes in our daily behavior, especially in economize the energy, can help reduce emission the greenhouse gas that causing global warming, without effecting the quality of our life but it is saving our money.

Some personal practices to contribute of combating climate change.

- ✓ Remove the charging device from the electric current if you don't use it, because it is Consumed the electricity even if does not connected by phone.
- ✓ Clean the air conditioner filter, by this you will consumed about 5% from energy consumption.
- ✓ Plant the trees and do not uproot them, because it is Absorbs Carbon Dioxide ,which is the main cause of global warming in the air earth.



Did you Know ...

- One of the main causes for air pollution is human use of the fossils fuels.
- The acid rain is an environmental phenomenon, and it's a rainfall come with harmful pollutants most of it is source from factories.
- Increase Lead concentrations in the air leads to diseases in the nervous system.

Environmental tips: -

- ❖ Use cotton towels when cleaning kitchens and bathrooms instead of paper.
- ❖ Do not use too many CDs, they can be replaced by USB.
- ❖ Use more E-mail and avoid using papers as much as possible.
- ❖ Try to minimize the newspapers that reach to your home, and read online newspapers.
- ❖ Use glass cups instead of plastic cups.



The importance of agriculture in human life

The important of agriculture represented in many aspects of life like:

- *Agriculture is an essential source of food.
- *Providing job opportunities for the unemployed.
- *Its products are integrated into industry such as cotton, sugarcane and others.
- *Is a financial source for many projects.
- *It is a decoration for the around environment .
- *Reduce air pollution.
- *Purify the air and raise the oxygen level.

