

Al-Sidrah

Issue 25
June 2022



الرؤية: الريادة في حماية البيئة واستدامة مواردها

الرسالة: نسعى لتعزيز جودة الحياة من خلال حماية البيئة واستدامة مواردها بتطوير وتطبيق قدرات استباقية ومرنة وسياسات واستراتيجيات فعالة ومحفزة على الابتكار وتقديم خدمات رائدة لضمان التزام بيئي مجتمعي

Content

Click on the title to go to the page

Strategic projects

[Ras Al Khaimah Plastic Free Initiative](#)

[Air quality in Ras Al Khaimah](#)

[Preparedness for response to oil pollution in Ras Al Khaimah](#)

[One Million Tree Initiative](#)

Environmental Education

[Grouper Fish \(Hamour \)](#)

[Air quality in our homes](#)

Newsletter

[MoU Between EPDA and Ras Al Khaimah Ports](#)

[Best Environmental Practices Workshop for Handling and Storage of Chemicals](#)

[EPDA meets its partners in implementing RAK Plastic Free Initiative](#)

[Free medical examinations at the EPDA's headquarters](#)

[EPDA studio](#)

[Pollution kills 9 million people every year](#)

Extras

[Contact us](#)

Environmental Monitoring

Ras Al Khaimah Plastic Free Initiative

Fully synthetic plastics were first created in 1907 by Belgian scientist Leo Baekeland. In just over a hundred years since its inception, plastic has been found everywhere around the world. Unfortunately, as plastics become commonplace in human daily life, many plastics are used only once and then thrown away. Clearly, these single-use plastics, when improperly disposed of, create eye sores and pose a threat to the natural ecosystems that make their way into them. Plastic pollution has a direct and deadly impact on wildlife. Thousands of seabirds, sea turtles, seals, and other marine mammals are killed each year after eating or getting entangled in plastic. Plastic is now also commonly found in the human food chain and has been found in humans and other animals. The Plastic Free Ras Al Khaimah initiative is launched by EPDA, in cooperation with other related organizations in Ras Al Khaimah such as RAK Municipality and aims to gradually replace plastic bags with environmentally friendly alternatives to reduce the use of plastic bags. The use of plastic in the emirate, starting with single-use plastic bags in the supermarket and bakery sectors. Single-use plastics are plastic items such as bags, plates, cutlery, bottles, etc., which are disposed of after one use. These plastics prioritize comfort over durability and frequent use. More than 300 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide each year, half of which is single-use plastic. The plastic does not completely degrade and instead continually degrades into smaller and smaller pieces called micro plastics. These micro plastics pose a significant risk to wildlife and are extremely difficult to clean.



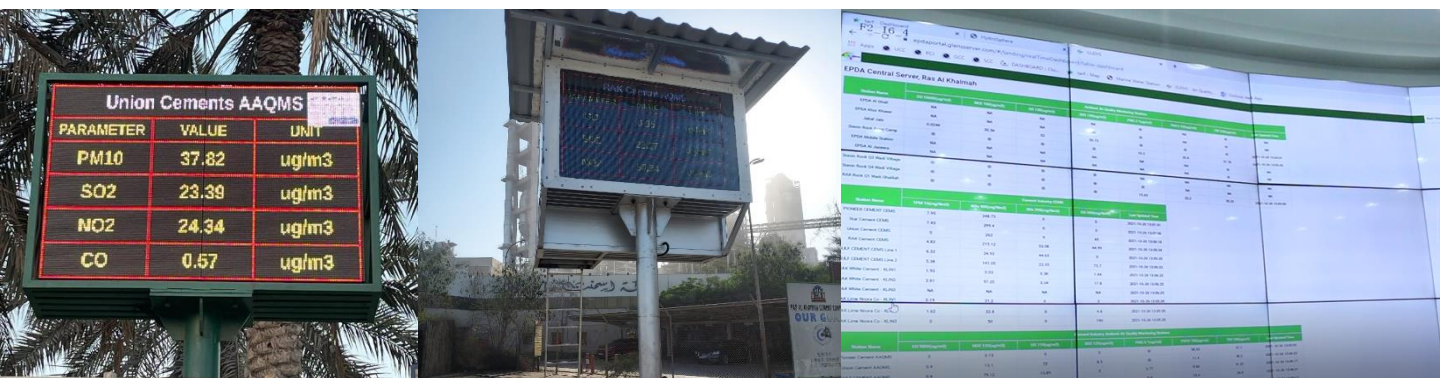
Examples of single-use plastics include soda and water bottles, plastic grocery bags, product packaging, straws, coffee mugs, and single-use plastic bags. This project aims to reduce the impact of single-use plastics on the environment and human health in Ras Al Khaimah by restricting the creation and use of these items by banning their use in various commercial sectors. The ban is planned to be implemented gradually over several years until we achieve a single-use plastic-free emirate. The best way to reduce the impact of single-use plastics on climate change is to stop using this type of plastic. For example, buy and reuse more durable grocery bags made of canvas or even synthetic woven fabric. These versatile bags won't rip easily and can usually be washed with water. In a world full of plastic bottles, this task can seem very difficult. By implementing this initiative we look forward to achieving the following goals:

- Keeping pace with global trends to reduce single-use plastics to ensure the preservation of natural resources.
- Reducing the ecological footprint and protecting ecosystems.
- Increasing environmental awareness of the dangers of single-use plastics.
- Reducing the negative effects of plastic on human health, other living organisms and the environment.
- Changing the behavior of society to shift towards alternatives.
- Establishing the social responsibility of the various sectors of society towards environmental issues and challenges.
- Promote the concept of sustainable purchasing.

Environmental Monitoring

Air Quality in Ras Al Khaimah

Air pollution is one of the main issues at the local and global levels, and the authority seeks to tighten control and control emissions that have a negative impact on the environment. The United Arab Emirates and the position of each of the seven emirates from competition. **Ras Al Khaimah ranked first out of the seven emirates in the air quality index with a value of 81%.**



Among the systems that the authority has followed to enhance air quality and enhance environmental governance and transparency, the authority has started with the industrial sector in the emirate, and as a step to shift towards advanced technology and in line with the concern for transparency and sustainability of governance, industrial facilities in the emirate have been directed to commit to transparent information regarding air quality and ease of access to it. by the community. For the purpose of transparency and clarity of data, a system of displays of air quality indicators has been applied in the external interface of the industrial facility to disclose emissions data from the operational operations of the facility to show the state of air quality in the industrial facility. **This system is considered the first of its kind at the state level in applying the concept of transparency in the presentation of data.**

Environmental Monitoring

Preparedness for response to oil pollution in Ras Al Khaimah

Hydrocarbons (coal, oil, gas) are currently the primary source of energy on planet Earth, and they are also often the source of other materials that are an essential part of modern human society – for example plastics. The Arabian Gulf is one of the world’s busiest routes for the transport of oil and gas and as a result the chance for an accidental spill of oil or gas condensate is very high. Recognizing this, and the potential for severe environmental harm to occur if we are not able to quickly and effectively contain and recover the oil, the Environmental Protection and Development Agency has taken steps to prepare an Environmental & Socio-Economic Sensitivity Maps of the emirate and an Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).



If an oil spill was to occur in the waters of Ras Al Khaimah, many organizations in Ras Al Khaimah and at the Federal level would work together to implement the plan with the primary goal of preventing the oil from reaching environmentally or socio-economically sensitive areas, and subsequently to collect and dispose of the oil in a suitable manner to prevent or minimize environmental damage. If the oil spill was very large and beyond the ability of RAK or the UAE to manage, there are also international resources that can be called in to respond to the spill.

While most people recognize the environmental damage that an oil spill can cause (who has not seen pictures of oiled coastal mangrove or swamp areas, or birds, turtles, dolphins, fish and other organisms that have become oiled?) there can also be severe effects on socio-economic resources such as suspension of fisheries, closure of power plants, closure of water desalination plants, closure of tourist beaches etc.

Every year several oil spills occur worldwide, both on land and on water. The largest marine oil spill occurred in the US Gulf of Mexico in 2010 when the drilling rig Deepwater Horizon had a sub-sea blowout during drilling the Macondo Well. This incident resulted in the release of an estimated 210 million gallons of oil and the loss of 11 lives (personnel on the Deepwater Horizon). It also caused immense damage to the marine and coastal environment and billions of dollars in damage to local economies. While a spill of this magnitude is unlikely to occur in RAK, any spill can affect the marine and coastal environments and it can require the deployment of many resources in the waters of the Gulf and along the coastline to protect and restore the emirate’s ecosystems.

In order to prevent similar large-scale environmental and socio-economic damage EPDA has created Environmental and Socio-Economic Sensitivity maps of the emirate’s coastline, and an OSRP based on these sensitive resources to negate or minimize potential impacts. Any response will have to be an exercise in collaboration and partnership with local authorities such as the Coast Guard, Police and Civil Defense, RAK Municipality, the Public Works Department, RAK Ports, Waste Management Authority, Hospitals and others.

Earlier this year the EPDA plan was successfully tested in an office environment with the help of NCEMA and other RAK organizations; and later this year EPDA plans to conduct a field test also to ensure that all partner agencies are knowledgeable and able to practically respond quickly and effectively to mitigate an oil spill – if it happens.

Environmental Sustainability

One Million & One Tree Initiative

It is an initiative undertaken by the authority, to distribute local trees free of charge to the community, local, governmental and private entities, and the various sectors in the emirate. With the aim of distributing a larger number of local trees and by providing the opportunity to replace environmental fines for industrial and professional facilities that are violated for committing environmental violations, and planting local trees as compensation for the damage caused instead of being satisfied with financial fines. A team is also allocated to monitor the trees that have been planted to verify their care and attention, with the aim of preserving them and not wasting them.



Initiative Objectives

Reduce gas emissions	Increase the green area	improve air quality	Promote biodiversity
Spreading environmental awareness and the culture of the importance of planting trees and taking care of them	Reduce the effects of global warming	carbon footprint reduction	sustainability of natural resources

Environmental Awareness

Environmental Education



Grouper fish (Hamour)

The scientific name: *Epinephelus coioides*

The grouper is a large fish and is characterized by its strength, as it bears harsh environmental conditions such as severe water cold or high temperatures in shallow water. The grouper fish tolerates a lack of oxygen so that it survives after being out of the water for up to an hour, and sometimes for an hour and a half. There are many small dots spread on his body in orange or reddish brown.

Where it lives:

Grouper fish live in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, and the coasts of the Red Sea around the bottom marine rocks and coral reefs near the coast.



Grouper feeds on fish, crustaceans, and squid



facts and information:

- Groupers can change their color pattern to match their surroundings or use them as a means of communicating with each other.
- All groupers are born female, and when they are about four years old, some of them turn into males if there are not enough males in the local group.

Air Quality in Our Homes



How Do You Improve The Air Quality in Your Home?

Good air quality is a necessary factor to ensure human health and well-being, as it contributes to achieving healthy and sustainable air quality. Indoor air quality is the state of the air around us, where good air quality refers to clean and unpolluted air, and clean air is necessary to maintain the delicate balance of life. On this planet not only for humans, but for wildlife, plants, water and soil, indoor air pollution is considered one of the most important environmental risks to public health around the world, due to the increasing number of air quality-related diseases both in the home / public facilities / workplaces.

Furniture & Curtain Cleaning:

Get in the habit of changing the bedding and curtains at regular intervals. It is better to buy light curtains that do not accumulate much dust and to be cleaned monthly.

Use cleaning products with natural substances:

Natural cleaning materials are economical and hygienic to use in the home and surrounding areas. These days, there are plenty of safe alternatives on the market.

home ventilation:

Ventilate your home by opening doors and windows to let in fresh air and sunlight, which prevents indoor air pollution and kills germs and bacteria.

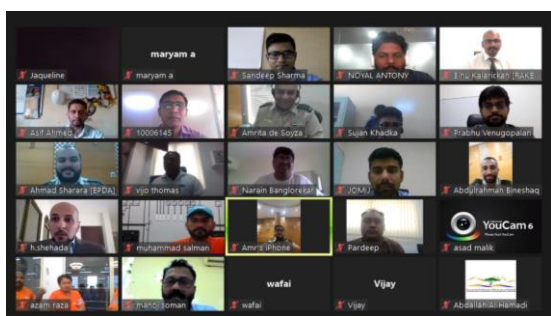
By following the tips and instructions above, this will contribute to improving the quality of the indoor air in your home and taking good care of air quality can help prevent health problems in the future, although it is impossible to completely eliminate air pollutants in your home, there are several ways They are mentioned by which you can reduce them significantly.

MoU Between EPDA and Ras Al Khaimah Ports

The Environment Protection and Development Authority in Ras Al Khaimah signed a memorandum of understanding with Ras Al Khaimah Ports aimed at enhancing joint cooperation between the two sides. The memorandum was signed by the Director General of the Environmental Protection and Development Authority, Dr. Saif Muhammad Al Ghais, representing the first party, and for the second party, it was signed by Mr. Roger Claskin, CEO of Ras Al Khaimah Ports. Dr. Saif Al Ghais confirmed that the memorandum of understanding regulates the process of providing the Authority to Ras Al Khaimah Ports with data from the floating monitoring stations in the waters of the Emirate, which use monitoring technology in order to measure the physical and chemical properties of sea water and the changes that occur to it, and to enable the Authority and the competent authorities to develop expected scenarios for the situation The marine environment, taking the necessary corrective or preventive decisions, and raising the level of quality control operations over activities and phenomena affecting the environment, where the two parties agreed to coordinate and cooperate with regard to conducting joint exercises such as protecting the environment from oil pollution and exchanging data.



Best Environmental Practices Workshop for Handling and Storage of Chemicals



EPDA held the second virtual workshop for this year on the best environmental practices in the issue of handling and storing chemicals, where an invitation was sent to the competent authorities in the emirate and the industrial and professional facilities used for these materials. The workshop aims to present and transfer experiences and best international practices And benefit from the experiences of leading companies in dealing with chemicals.

Dr. Saif Mohammed Al Ghais, Director-General of the Environmental Protection and Development Authority, said: "The UAE places health, safety and environmental standards at the top of its concerns, and this comes with taking into account the interests of the sectors concerned with dealing with chemicals and hazardous materials". Al-Ghais continued: "The workshop focused on storage methods and the best mechanisms and practices in dealing with hazardous materials, chemicals, and emissions. The mechanisms for self-reporting of facilities and the mutual benefits of this methodology were also discussed, provided that the protection of public health and environmental systems is taken into account with the cooperation of all. A number of parties participated in the workshop, and the procedures and practices followed in their bodies were presented to transfer experience and knowledge to the industrial establishments present in the workshop.

EPDA meets its partners in implementing RAK Plastic Free Initiative



EPDA called on its local partners supporting the implementation of the Ras Al Khaimah Plastic Free Initiative, represented by the RAK Municipality Department, the Department of Economic Development, RAKEZ, and the Tourism Development Authority to discuss the mechanism for implementing and implementing the initiative. EPDA works in accordance with the directions of the UAE and its efforts to address the phenomenon of excessive consumption of plastic bags in the daily lives of members of society, and to reduce the effects of their use on the environment and living organisms. This initiative comes to support the goals and vision of the Ras Al Khaimah government under the rational guidance of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, and with the close follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah, Chairman of the Executive Council. The Director General of EPDA, Dr. Saif Mohammad Al Ghais, presented the mechanism and stages of application, as the attendees agreed on the duration of the first stage, which is the period of imposing fees for single-use plastic bags and educating consumers about the need to reduce and stop using plastic bags, and after 6 months, the total ban on their use will be implemented. And start violating the facilities provided by the dealers. During the meeting, the pricing of plastic bags in the targeted sectors was discussed during the first phase of the initiative's implementation, and all views of support and opposition from the attendees representing their sides were heard. During the stages of studying the implementation plan of the initiative in 2019, the authority carried out a survey targeting the owners of the supermarket and bakery sectors, which showed the support of 77.28% of the total of 261 supermarkets and bakeries for the initiative, which aims to replace non-biodegradable plastic bags with environmentally friendly alternatives. The number of bags reached Approximately 28 million plastic bags were used in these two activities in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah only during that period. Al Ghais stressed, "Preserving the environment and the sustainability of its resources has been a strategic priority for the UAE since its establishment. Thanks to the vision and directives of its wise leadership, the country has presented a pioneering model in efforts to protect the environment, preserve its natural resources and ensure the sustainability of its biodiversity. Today, our meeting comes with these local authorities to distribute roles And working as one to rid the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah and its ecosystems and biodiversity from the danger of single-use plastic bags." Al Ghais added, "The individual may not feel the danger of these bags and the effects they can cause on public health, and the deterioration of the marine and terrestrial environment. In general, such initiatives and directions confirm our continued commitment to support the efforts of the international community aimed at reducing the repercussions of climate change and the challenges it causes, as the country hosts the COP28 Conference of Parties in 2023."

Free medical examinations at the EPDA's headquarters

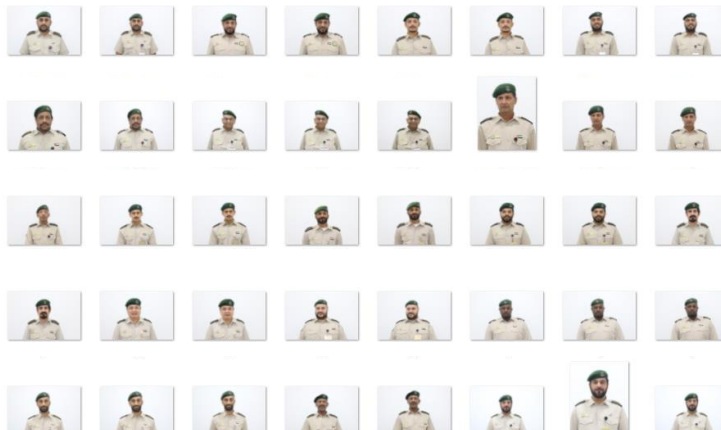


Within the "My Health First" initiative, it is a program that contains a set of initiatives that promote health culture and its importance, in addition to raising the level of health awareness among working employees, in addition to releasing the latent energies, free medical examinations were provided to all employees of the authority in cooperation

with Ras Al Khaimah Hospital On Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Where the total number of beneficiaries of the initiative (26) employees.

EPDA Studio

Within the Job Happiness Program, which contains a set of initiatives that enhance affiliation and job loyalty, and raise the level of quality of life in the work environment, which results in raising the level of employee productivity. EPDA studio initiative was implemented by providing a free service to photograph employees in cooperation with the Institutional Communication Office on Thursday, May 26, 2022, where the total number of beneficiaries of the initiative reached (20) employees.



Pollution kills 9 million people every year

Source



Increased outdoor air pollution and lead poisoning are responsible for nearly nine million deaths a year since 2015, undermining modest progress in tackling pollution around the world, a team of scientists said. According to scientists' analysis of data on global death rates and pollution levels, air pollution from industrial processes and urbanization contributed to a 7 percent increase in pollution-related deaths between 2015 and 2019.

Estimates in a previous version of the study published in 2017, showed that the death toll due to pollution amounted to about nine million annually, or one in six deaths worldwide. The costs to the global economy have also increased to 4.6 trillion annually. In the recent study, published online in *The Lancet Planetary Health*, researchers analyzed 2019 data from a University of Washington study that studies exposure to pollution and calculates the risk of death resulting from it.

The recent study focuses specifically on the causes of pollution, separating traditional pollutants such as indoor smoking or sewage from more modern pollutants such as air pollution due to industry and toxic chemicals. The researchers concluded that deaths related to conventional pollutants have decreased globally, but remain a major problem in Africa and some other developing countries. The data adjusted to calculate the impact of pollution revealed that polluted water, soil and poor indoor air were factors that made Chad, Central African Republic and Niger the countries with the most pollution-related deaths.

Government programs to reduce indoor air pollution and improve public health have reduced the death toll elsewhere. In Ethiopia and Nigeria, those efforts have reduced pollution-related deaths by two-thirds between 2000 and 2019. Deaths from exposure to modern pollutants such as heavy metals, agrochemicals and fossil fuel emissions are "a significant increase", up 66 percent since 2000, said Rachel Kupka, executive director of the Global Alliance for Health and Pollution Control in New York and co-author of the study.

The researchers said that some large capitals have had some success in combating outdoor air pollution, including Bangkok, Beijing and Mexico City, but in smaller cities pollution levels are still high.

The study compiled a list of the ten countries with the highest reporting of pollution-related deaths based on the results adjusted for pollution calculation. These countries are, respectively, Chad, Central African Republic, Niger, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, North Korea, Lesotho, Bulgaria and Burkina Faso.

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