

# THEMES ENERGY

Eco-School themes are focus areas of sustainability that schools need to work on during their seven-step implementation process. Energy, Water and Waste (including Litter) are the mandatory themes for all Eco-Schools in the UAE. An additional theme will be taken up after you get the first Green Flag and subsequent renewals.

Use the results of your Environmental Review to set realistic targets and concentrate more on areas that are most relevant to your school. In many instances, while you work on one theme, you are likely to improve your performance in another theme as well. For eg: when you try and reduce Waste, you are tackling Climate Change as well.

The ten themes to be followed by Eco-Schools UAE are  
Logos of all 10 themes

## Energy

The UAE is home to about 6% of the world's oil reserves. As a result, we have experienced a long period of extraordinary economic growth, which in turn, has led to rapid development and improved living standards. Maintaining this high standard, despite the harsh climate, clearly demands a vast amount of energy and natural resources. We get water from desalination, and use AC's to cool our houses, schools, offices, shops and even our bus stops. We need cars to transport us in the hot summers when it simply gets too hot to walk far. We need to import goods and natural resources from around the globe to sustain our consumption patterns and economic development. The list goes on. According to the WWF's Living Planet Report 2012, the Ecological Footprint for the UAE is currently the third highest in the world at 8.4 global hectares (gha) per person, of which about 80% of this Footprint is due to the consumption of carbon-intensive goods and services, and in particular- Energy. Thus it becomes imperative that the main focus on lowering the Ecological Footprint be directed towards reducing consumption of energy.

## The Energy Picture: Where Are We Now? Where Are We Headed?

Market trends suggest that the demand for energy resources will rise dramatically over the next 25 years:

- Global demand for all energy sources is forecast to grow by 57% over the next 25 years.
- By 2040, worldwide electricity demand will be 80 percent higher than it was in 2010
- By 2035, energy demand in Asia is expected to double from what it is today
- Electricity demand in the Middle East is expected to grow by at least 71% by 2040.
- Currently, almost 90% of UAE's electrical generation relies on natural gas; while 40% of UAE's greenhouse gas emissions result from electricity consumption.
- Energy prices will also rise dramatically due to increased demand and constrained supply

It is a reality that whopping sums of money are spent by the government and school owners on clearing electricity and water bills. Besides, the heavy impacts of changing climate scenarios due to global warming cannot be stated enough.

## Schools must take the lead in reducing Energy consumption

Because of the not-so-pleasant weather conditions for major parts of the year in the UAE, schools consume a lot of energy by way of running air conditioners in school buildings as well as buses used to transport staff and students. But a lot of this energy is wasted through inefficient and un-necessary usage.

Applying the Eco-School methodology, you should be able to come up with simple energy-conservation measures and consider using energy-efficient technologies in your school that will significantly lower your energy use. Besides reducing your environmental impact, what you will see is some good financial savings as well!

Click here for Top Energy savings tips

And if you have interesting videos featuring energy saving activities in your school, please send them to :  
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