

Opinion



Unlocking The Power Of Environmental Education

By **Laurent Longuet** Dec 20, 2019, 8:40 AM

Add to Bookmarks



Play Sound



Image via Piqsels

In the UAE, especially in Dubai, the leadership has been bold in setting ambitious targets and taking effective measures. For example, the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has made a commitment to solar power and translated it into actions. The emirate has been at the forefront in putting in place the “Shams Dubai” framework, which is a regulation that allows commercial and industrial customers (i.e. the private sector) to adopt solar energy and produce their own electricity. In addition to this, large-scale mega projects such as the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar energy project in the world, is playing an important role in the UAE’s sustainable development goals.

Public and private sectors are working together towards achieving the UAE’s targets and making the country a global leader in energy development, with a growing number of business leaders considering issues such as water conservation, climate change, and waste management as important.

However, also fundamental to positioning the country as a world leader in environmental education is building a knowledge-based economy. Some countries have made efforts to make climate change and sustainability a key element of their educational model. Italy recently became the first country in the world to make learning about climate change

compulsory for school students. All public schools will include about 33 hours a year in their curricula to study issues linked to climate change.

This comes at the time young people across the world are speaking out against governments and business leaders to take action to protect our environment. The Middle East, with around half its population under the age of 25, has the potential to make significant contributions to the sustainable development of the region and the world.

According to recent research by the Sustainability Advisory Group, there is a growing environmental consciousness from the “bottom-up”—the youth demographic. This is expected to shape the discourse of environmental issues in the region. The survey shows that there seems to be an increasing concern in the region on issues of water conservation, energy saving and recycling in particular.

As the country gets ready for Expo2020, which is set to leave a lasting and meaningful legacy for the next generation, there’s an opportunity to further improve sustainability awareness. For example, organizers have already announced that they are aiming to divert 85% of all waste from landfill by reducing, reusing, recycling and repurposing—turning waste into everything from fertiliser to souvenir t-shirts.

It’s a good sign that, for the youth, the green economy represents a significant market capable of creating many new job opportunities, encouraging them to consider a career in a key sector where they can play an active role towards a greener planet.

Laurent Longuet is the CEO of SirajPower.

Image via [Piqsels](#)

 By **Laurent Longuet**

Related Articles



Opinion

8 New Golf Courses to Play in 2020

 By **Jenna Heidstrom** Dec 22, 2019

