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Note From the Founder Carboun's Second Anniversary

Dear friends,

Welcome to the second edition of Carboun Letters, and the first in its new regular format, which aims to communicate Carboun's latest projects and activities as well as a selection of regionally-relevant news and developments.

A few days ago was Carboun's second anniversary. It is exciting to see how the initiative has grown over the past 2 years from a simple idea to promote sustainability in the Middle East into a small organization with national coordinators in 5 countries.

The past few months have been particularly exciting to us at Carboun, as we have embarked on a number of interesting research and outreach projects that will take place during 2012. The most prominent of this year's projects is *Road to Doha*, a combined research and outreach project on the causes and impacts of climate change in the Middle East and North Africa. The year-long project culminates in an event by Carboun at the UN Conference of Parties (COP 18) at Doha in December.

This year we are also proud to launch *24/7 Electricity*, a research project that looks into energy generation challenges in Lebanon and their impact on its economic development. We also continue our region-wide comparative study *Energy Use in Middle East Buildings* which started in late 2011.

2012 also marks the launch of the Carboun Ambassador program, our volunteering scheme, with pilots in Lebanon and Jordan. The scheme also extends to include Carboun Ambassadors from outside the region.

On Carboun's second anniversary, we look back and are humbled by the support and interest we received from all of our friends and supporters. We also look forward to the future, and hope our efforts can play a role in the sustainable development of the region and in creating a sustainable future for its people.

Faithfully,

Karim Elgendi

Carboun Projects

Introduction to Carboun's Projects

Road to Doha

A project by the Carboun initiative

Carboun is proud to launch the *Road to Doha* project, which comprises a number of activities taking place throughout 2012. The year long activities will culminate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 18 in Doha between 26 November and 7 December 2012, where the Carboun team will be present to participate in the debate and cover the negotiations.

Hosting the climate change conference in the Middle East is a significant event that promises to accelerate the region's adoption of sustainable practices and greatly increase local and regional awareness of global environmental challenges.

Carboun aims to capitalize on this momentum by offering audience in the Middle East access to research and studies related to the state of sustainability in the region.

Every month, Carboun will publish an article relating to greenhouse gases emissions, climate change, mitigation, and adaptation. In addition, a number of Arab countries will be examined in detail, analyzing their state of sustainability as well as efforts (or lack thereof) implemented to improve their sustainability performance.

The first article in this series will be published by the end of February, and will cover a general introduction to climate change science and realities, with an emphasis on how it relates to the Middle East.

24/7 Electricity

A project by the Carboun initiative

Carboun is proud to launch the *24/7 Electricity* project, which will examine the root causes of power shortages in Lebanon, including a review of the technical aspect and the institutional structure of the sector. The study will also examine the lebanese cabinet reform plan that was recently adopted.

Power generation in Lebanon falls short of meeting demand, which leaves the country with acute power shortages. In addition to the direct impact on the standards of living in the country, power shortages undermine economic growth and the country's competitiveness, and represents a significant drain on public resources.

Furthermore, the development of the unregulated private power suppliers business across the country came at a significant cost to the environment, households' expenditures, and standards of living.

Carboun's National Coordinator in Lebanon will work with a small team of Carboun Ambassadors to conduct this project. The project will be launched by the end of February 2012.

Carboun Newswire

Review of Sustainability News

Regional Developments:

Abu Dhabi to introduce Estidama for existing buildings by the end of 2012

Urban planning authorities in Abu Dhabi are now drawing up guidelines that will also make existing structures sustainable. These guidelines will call for more efficient water, lighting, cooling and insulation fixtures, among various other elements, so that older buildings and villas also make the best use of the emirate's scarce water resources and adapt better to the intense summer heat. The measures will be part of the UPC's Estidama Pearl Rating System for existing buildings, which are expected to be introduced by the end of the year. The system will mirror the framework used to rate the sustainability of new projects in the emirate.

Dubai launches 1000MW Solar Park, first 10MW phase expected by 2013

Dubai launched a 12 billion U.A.E. dirham (\$3.27 billion) solar-energy project that is expected to begin generating electricity by the end of 2013, as the emirate pushes to cut its carbon footprint and diversify away from its dependency on fossil fuels. The 1000 megawatt solar park, which will extend over 48 square kilometers along the Dubai-Al Ain road is part of Dubai's plan for a diversified energy mix by 2030 into 71% Gas, 5% Solar , 12% Nuclear, and 12% Clean Coal.

World Health Organization Building in Amman Achieves LEED Gold

The World Health Organization (WHO) building in Jordan was awarded the LEED Gold certification under version 2.2 of the rating system, making it Jordan's first Gold building and the second building to achieve LEED certification after the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which achieved a Silver certification.

Does Egypt Own The Nile?

Moves by the Nile's upstream states to use more of its water and hydropower potential drew a strong response by Egypt. This Analysis provides a historical, economical, and environmental background to this dispute.

Global Developments:

UN Panel on Global Sustainability Presents its Report on Resiliency

The Panel on Global Sustainability has issued its report "Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing" recommending putting sustainable development into practice and mainstreaming it into economic policy. The report is a significant contribution to the UN's work, and provides a timely contribution to preparations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012

2012 : The year of “Sustainable Energy for All”

The UN Secretary-General's High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All has launched an initiative titled "Sustainable Energy for All: A Framework for Action". The initiative aims to bring together the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental to ensure universal access to modern energy services, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

MIT Researchers Find a Way to Make Solar Panels from Grass Clippings

MIT researchers have developed a much easier and cheaper method of making solar panels that could revolutionize the way PV's are used to generate electricity. By utilizing green organic material like grass clippings and agricultural waste combined with custom chemicals, the mixture can be painted on any roof.

Calculate your Carbon footprint

A new carbon calculator tool that allows you to benchmark your carbon footprint in minutes while taking into account regional and national factors.

Historical Climate records visualized by NASA

NASA releases a 26-second video, showing how global temperatures increased since records began in 1880.

Carboun Calendar Regional Sustainability Events

The 2nd International Conference on Renewable Energy: Generation and Applications

4 - 7 March, 2012
Al-Ain, UAE
Energy
Renewables

C Think Green 4

5-6 March, 2012
Amman, Jordan
Green Buildings

3rd Annual MENA Natural Gas Distribution Summit

5 - 7 March, 2012
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Energy
Renewables

C New Prospect in Sciences and Education in MENA Region

9 -11 March, 2012
Marrakech, Morocco
Energy
Climate Change
Biotechnology

Carbon Capture & Storage Day

12 March, 2012
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Energy

Wetex Exhibition

13 - 15 March, 2012
Dubai, UAE
Water
Energy
Technology
Environment

Energy Project Finance - Oil, Gas & Power

13 - 15 March, 2012
Dubai, UAE
Energy
Technology
Finance

Gulf Environment Forum 2012

25 - 27 March, 2012
Jeddah, KSA
Sustainability
Urban Environmental Management

The First International Conference on Renewable Energies and Vehicular Technology

26 - 28 March, 2012
Hammamet, Tunisia
Energy
Technology
Modelling
Design

Crises, Globalization and Governance: How to Draw Lessons?

2 - 3 April 2012
Beirut, Lebanon
Economy
Sustainability

5th International Conference On Energy Research & Development

9 - 11 April, 2012
Kuwait, Kuwait
Energy
Research and Development

C World EcoBuild_Building a sustainable future

22 - 25 April, 2012
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Green buildings

Carboun Journal

Summary of Carboun's Recent Articles

Sustainability in the Desert: A Review of Sustainable Design in the Middle East

By Karim Elgendi

The notions of sustainable design and energy efficiency first entered global consciousness following the energy shortages of the 1970s and 1980s. Influenced by ideas of energy independence, many designers in Europe and North America sought ideas and strategies that could help create energy-efficient buildings and cities. As they searched for design solutions, some researched the environmentally responsive elements of traditional architecture, while others developed new solutions that employ modern technologies and high performance materials.

As the energy crisis subsided, the building industry in North America returned to business as usual, allowing its European counterpart – which emphasized technological solutions – to take a lead. But with the revival of global interest in sustainability – this

time driven by both environmental and energy concerns – the dormant dialogue between the two approaches to sustainable design returned to play a role in shaping the global sustainability agenda. Oscillating between advocates of passive design and proponents of

technological solutions, this dialogue continues to enrich the discourse on the future of sustainable design and development.

To continue reading, please visit the [original article](#) on Carboun's website.



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"The education, discourse and practice of sustainability in the Middle East are driven by a convergence of pressing issues that collectively demand a more efficient and sustainable use of resources."

Outreach

Joining and staying in touch with Carboun

Are you interested in staying in touch with Carboun? We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about Middle East sustainability and environment.

If you would like to propose/discuss a local project, propose an article, or suggest news for this publication, please email us at enquiries@carboun.com or contact your national coordinator directly. If your country does not have a national coordinator, please contact our general coordinator.

If you are interested in joining Carboun as a National Coordinator or an Ambassador please contact your relevant coordinator directly for

information on role description and the application process.

To join this newsletter please sign up at Carboun's homepage at www.carboun.com

You can also stay in touch with us via our social network groups and outlets.

For up to date sustainability news and development, please join our [Facebook](#) page and follow our [Twitter](#) feed.

You can also join Carboun's vibrant group on [LinkedIn](#) for more in-depth discussions of sustainability in the region.

General Coordinator
Karim Elgendi karim@carboun.com

Jordan National Coordinator
Rashed Al Nasa'a rashed@carboun.com

Kuwait National Coordinator
Mounir Kabbara Mounir@carboun.com

Lebanon National Coordinator
Guy El Khoury guy@carboun.com

Morocco National Coordinator
Abdeltif El Ouahrani abdeltif@carboun.com

UAE National Coordinator:
Wissam Yassine Wissam@carboun.com

More information at: www.carboun.com/about