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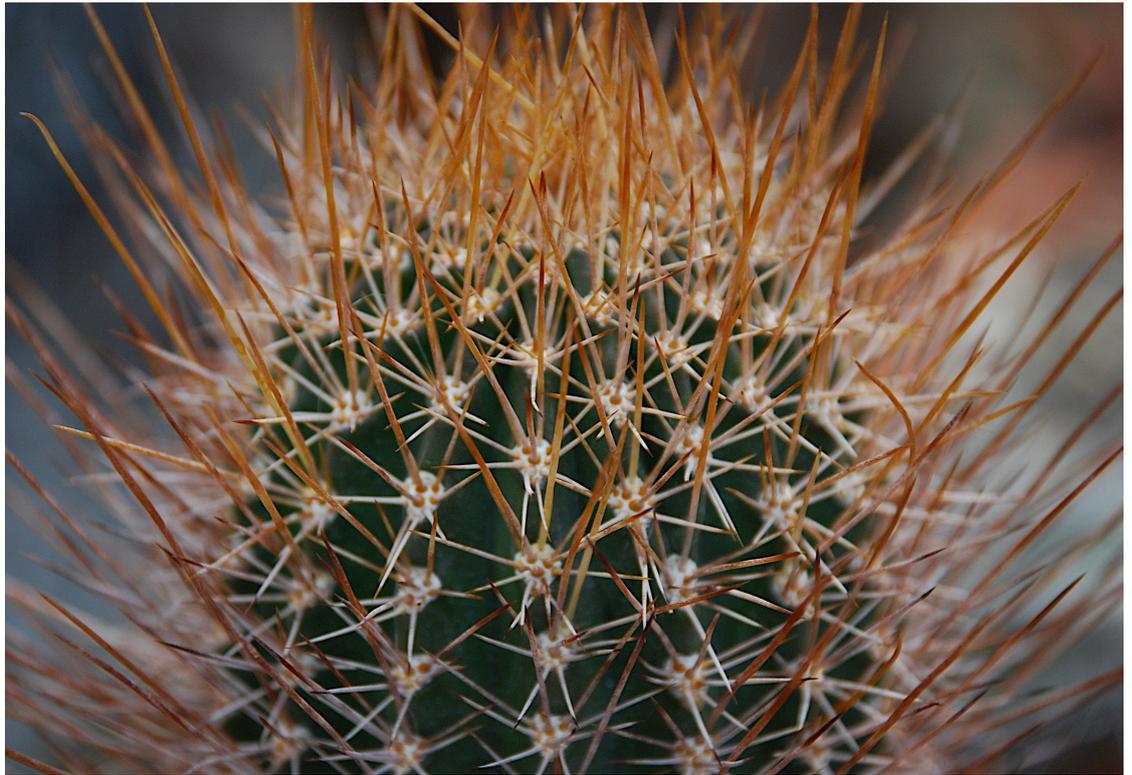
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Note From Our Jordan Coordinator Taking the First Steps

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to say a few words at the beginning of the third edition of Carboun Letters. For me, it is always fascinating to see how individuals from various backgrounds, interests and locations can come together, speak the same language, and unite for a single cause that can shape the future of the region as it faces challenges in need of solutions and questions in need for answers.

Being part of the Carboun team has been very rewarding to say the least. Not only has it opened opportunities for the group to collectively work on exciting projects, but it also enabled me as a National Coordinator in Jordan to take my engagement with sustainability issues to a whole new level, and helped me move from a local platform to regional and international ones.

Since our last edition of Carboun Letters we have witnessed a growing interest in Carboun on a number of levels. Our pilot volunteer scheme, Carboun Ambassadors, is already recruiting in Lebanon and Jordan, bringing on board more passionate individuals into our growing team.

In addition, the Road to Doha project is well underway, with the publication of our first article in the series. The project combines both research and outreach to highlight the causes and impacts of climate change in the region, two issues that can no longer be ignored or deemed secondary to socio-economic and political development.

It is inspiring to see how far we have come in such a short period of time. Yet, while first steps have indeed been taken, the path ahead of us all remains long and challenging. Our journey requires a collaborative and integrated effort if we are to achieve our aspirations of a sustainable future for the region.

Moving forward, we have high hopes for what we could do together and believe that with your continuous support we can turn our aspirations into realities. For that, and on behalf of the team, I would like to thank all our supporters, *Shukran!*

Sincerely,

Rashed Al Nasa'a

Carboun Newswire

Review of Sustainability News

Regional Developments:

Arab Development Challenges Report 2011

The second edition of the Arab Development Challenges Report comes at a time when the region is going through a critical historical juncture. It attempts to go beyond the numbers to uncover the processes that have underpinned drivers of social, economic, and political exclusion. The report argues that the development model followed in the Arab region should be based on a more socially just foundation.

[More information and link to the report](#)

Food Security in the Arab World

A report published by the International Food Policy Research Institute highlights the importance of food security in the Arab world which imports more than 50% of its food. The report argues that food security has deteriorated in the region and underlines linkages between food security and socio-economic development. The report classifies Arab countries by level of risk of food insecurity based on macro- and micro-level indicators. Its authors argue that the recent unrest in the region was a "clear income-poverty and food security story".

[More information](#)

Islamic Investment Takes on a Green Tinge

A 'green Sukuk' working group was recently set up by several stakeholders to identify projects and set guidelines to labeling green and sharia-compliant investments and to promote the issuance of Sukuk - or sharia compliant bonds - to finance projects designed to mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change. It is hoped this will attract additional funds to renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

[More information](#)

LAGI Releases a Field Guide to Renewable Energy

The Dubai -based Land Art Generator Initiative have recently released the first edition of their Field Guide to Renewable Energy Technologies. The highly visual guide is a free resource and targets designers, engineers, artists, and homeowners interested in renewable energy.

[More information and link to the field guide](#)

Kuwait Committed to Reduce Emissions Through a Partnership With Global Gas Flaring Reduction

Kuwait has become the third country in the Middle East to be part of the Global Gas Flaring Reduction initiative after Qatar and Iraq. Gas flaring reduction can significantly contribute to reducing GHGs, improving energy efficiency and ultimately mitigating climate change. In 2010, 75 million tonnes of carbon dioxide were emitted directly from gas flaring in the Middle East. By reducing flaring from 17% to 1.75%, Kuwait Oil Company increased revenue by \$2.7 billion.

[More information](#)

Dubai Launches a Carbon Footprint Calculator in Arabic

The Dubai government and Dubai Municipality launched the region's first carbon calculator in Arabic for residents. If you live in Dubai, take the opportunity to find out your ecological footprint.

[Calculator website](#)

Plastic Pollution Worry Sees Ban in UAE Brought Forward

The UAE has moved forward its plan to ban plastic products and bags to this year due to growing concerns about current levels of plastic pollution affecting deserts and sea environments.

[More information](#)

Carboun Newswire

Review of Sustainability News

Global Developments:

New Report Examines the Impact of School Buildings on Student Health and Performance

The Center for Green Schools at the United States Green Building Council and McGraw-Hill Research Foundation released a new white paper titled: *The Impact of School Buildings on Student Health and Learning: A Call for Research*. The paper sheds light on the critical need for research around how the school building impacts the health and performance of the students in those buildings. The paper explores research from two perspectives: how the built environment can impact a child's experience in the classroom, and how different stakeholders could play an important role in bringing more research on green schools to light.

[More information](#)

New Report on Green Buildings and Climate Resilience

The U.S. Green Building Council and the University of Michigan released a report describing how green buildings can advance resiliency in disasters. The report, which identifies the deep synergies between green building and resiliency, also examines the implications of climate change for green building, identifies opportunities for resilience, and analyzes how individual LEED credits support regional adaptation needs.

[More information](#)

Fukushima, One Year After

The debate around nuclear power continues as the world marks the first anniversary of the Fukushima accident. With the momentum of nuclear power plants construction slowing down, and with some countries such as Germany deciding to end its nuclear program, a debate continues between proponents of nuclear power who argue that this is only a pause in the nuclear renaissance, and opponents who note that we failed to learn lessons from Chernobyl and that the world has several alternatives to meet its growing demand of electricity from safer, cleaner sources.

[More information](#) and [overview map](#)

An innovative Model Helps Provide a Sustainable Water Supply in Developing Countries

One of the biggest humanitarian challenges we face today remains providing access to clean drinking water for the one billion people around the world who are deprived of this basic necessity. A design and business model by a Danish company attempts to overcome this challenge by developing a modern pump technology powered by solar energy and an innovative mobile banking payment system. The solution is already providing 50,000 people in various areas of Kenya with reliable access to clean water and is planned to be expanded to other countries.

[More information](#)

China's Sustainable Urbanization Opportunity

In less than three decades, China's economy has transformed from a farming-based economy to a growing manufactured-based economy. With this transformation comes a large-scale migration of populations from rural areas to urban areas. At least 220 cities in China will have a population of at least 1 million by 2030, most of which will be completely new. This represents a potential opportunity to develop a global model for a sustainable, low-carbon city allowing China to be a leader in sustainable urbanization.

[More information](#)

6 countries Plan to Reduce their Emissions of Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases

In parallel to the comprehensive international climate change negotiations, six countries led by the United States are starting a program to reduce emissions of common short-lived pollutant that contribute to rapid climate change and widespread health problems. Scientists say that this limited plan can reduce global temperatures by 0.5 degrees Celsius by 2050 and prevent millions of cases of lung and heart disease.

[More information](#)

Carboun Projects

Updates to Carboun's Projects

New Project

Jordan: Storytelling Sustainability

Every issue has a story behind it. A story of loss, hardship, joy, success, or a story that gives a voice to the silent faces that echo beyond the facts and figures to capture the essence of what truly matters to people and their future.

At the center of the Middle East's current challenges are the many issues that relate sustainable development and the impacts of climate change. In a highly urbanized region such as the Middle East, these issues are intrinsically related to its built environment which holds the key to solving or compounding the region's challenges.

Jordan, a country with limited natural resources but rich in its human capital, stands at a crossroads as it attempts to provide answers to its growing list of challenges.

The Storytelling Sustainability project seeks to highlight specific issues relating to sustainable development in Jordan by telling the stories behind them.

To put these stories into perspective, it will also provide relevant information and data. Its goal is to engage Jordanians in a dialogue on localized and contextual solutions to Jordan's challenges which could also be replicated elsewhere in the region.

The project will make use of the Carboun website and social networks as its main medium to tell the stories, but is also expected to make use of other social media outlets to spread the message and expand the conversation, locally and regionally.

Project Updates

Road to Doha

We are excited to announce that the Road to Doha project is already underway. The project aims at familiarizing audiences in the Middle East and North Africa with issues relating to climate change science, the regions' contribution to it, its impacts on the region, and how the region can contribute to international efforts to mitigate and adapt to it.

This month the project debuted with a foundation article by Wissam Yassine on the science and impacts of climate change globally. The article explored the history of climate change negotiations and its major milestones and helped put the COP 18 meeting in Doha this year in context. The article is featured in this newsletter and be accessed through the Road to Doha page on Carboun at carboun.com/road-to-doha

The second feature in the Road to Doha series, which will be published later this month, will offer an in-depth analysis of the industrial sector in the region, focusing on its contribution to climate change and opportunities for reducing its carbon intensity.

The Road to Doha team welcome your comments and feedback through our LinkedIn group, through twitter using the hashtag #Road2Doha, or on our Facebook page at facebook.com/carboun

Lebanon 24/7 Electricity

The Lebanon 24/7 team recently welcomed three Carboun Ambassadors - Marie Tyl, Talina Zeidan, and Marc Ziade, who are all students at the American University of Beirut. The primary objective of the Lebanon 24/7 Electricity project is to review the current state of the electricity sector in Lebanon and to evaluate the Cabinet's energy reform plan.

The first article of the series is scheduled to be featured in the April edition of Carboun Letters.

Carboun Calendar

Regional Sustainability Events

- C New Prospect in Sciences and Education in MENA Region**
9 -11 March, 2012
Marrakech, Morocco. ([Event link](#))
Energy, Climate Change, Biotechnology
- The BIG 5 Saudi**
10 -13 March, 2012
Jaddah, KSA. ([Event link](#))
Building
- Carbon Capture & Storage Day**
12 March, 2012
Abu Dhabi, UAE. ([Event link](#))
Energy
- Wetex Exhibition**
13 - 15 March, 2012
Dubai, UAE. ([Event link](#))
Water, Energy, technology, Environment
- Energy Project Finance - Oil, Gas & Power**
15 March, 2012
Dubai, UAE. ([Event link](#))
Energy, Technology, Fiance
- Gulf Environment Forum 2012**
25 - 27 March, 2012
Jeddah, KSA. ([Event link](#))
Sustainability, Urban Environment management
- The First International Conference on Renewable Energies and Vehicular Technology**
26 - 28 March, 2012
Hammamet, Tunisia. ([Event link](#))
Energy, Technology, Modelling and Design
- Crises, Globalization and Governance: How to Draw Lessons?**
2 - 3 April 2012
Beirut, Lebanon. ([Event link](#))
Economy, sustainability
- 5th International Conference On Energy Research & Development**
9 - 11 April, 2012
Kuwait, Kuwait. ([Event link](#))
Energy, R&D
- 4th Annual Maghreb / Middle East Renewable Energy Summit 2012**
16 - 17 April, 2012
Casablanca, Morocco. ([Event link](#))
Energy
- CSP EMEA**
17 - 18 April, 2012
Cairo, Egypt. ([Event link](#))
Energy
- C World EcoBuild_Building a sustainable future**
22 – 25 April, 2012
Abu Dhabi, UAE. ([Event link](#))
Green
- GreenAge 2012**
26 to 27 April 2012
Istanbul, Turkey. ([Event link](#))
Energy, Green

Events identified with **C** are events in which Carboun is represented

Carboun Journal

Summary of Carboun's Recent Articles

Road to Doha An Introduction to Climate Change

By Wissam Yassine

Climate Change is the term we use to describe the current changes in Earth's climate patterns due to increase in earth's temperature a result of the recent human-induced greenhouse gases emissions. Over the last 130 years, the global average temperature of the planet rose by 0.8 °C. However, the impacts of this temperature increase on climate patterns in different regions varied widely

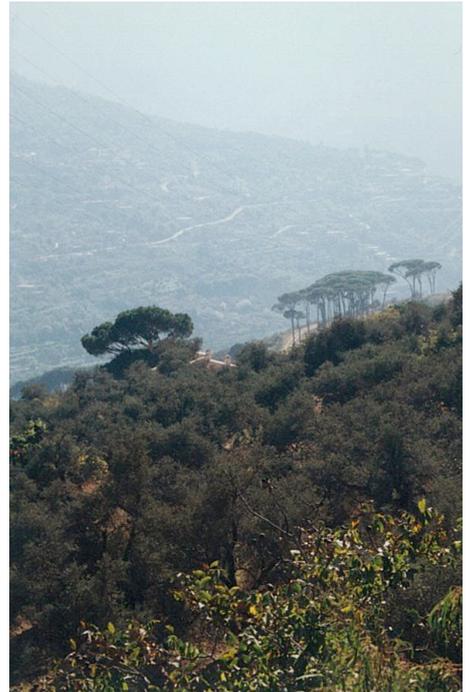
National scientific bodies in all major countries agree that the cause for this trend of global warming is the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and growing livestock. Climate models have been created to forecast the expected increase in the average global temperatures over the coming years based on current and expected emission levels. These models show

that the global average temperatures are expected to rise by up to 6 °C by 2100 if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise as they have in recent decades. This increase in global temperature will have far-reaching impacts, including an increase in sea level which will threaten coastal and low lying areas, disruption

of precipitation patterns around the world, and an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events and heat waves.

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

“Models show that the global average temperatures are expected to rise by up to 6 °C by 2100 if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise as they have in recent decades”



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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.

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