

Zim commemorates World Environment Day

rest of the world commemorating World Environment Day tomorrow. It is an environmental awareness day, run by the United Nations which is also known as Eco Day or Environment Day. The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, UN's first major conference on international environmental issues, which marked a turning point in the development of international environmental politics. It was first commemorated in 1974.

The aim of the day is to raise awareness on the environment and specific environmental issues. It also urges people to become active advocates for sustainable and equitable living, to promote awareness and an understanding that communities play a central role in changing



SPAR (4) ZIMBABWE

SPAR Zimbabwe is proud
to work with the
Ministry of Environment,
Climate, Tourism and Hospitality,
EMA and Clean & Green
in celebration of
World Environment Day
5 June 2021







better together



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY SUPPLEMENT



SPAR Zimbabwe plastic free campaign launch

SPAR Zimbabwe committed to Vision 2030

ment is "Better Together", which encapsulates the SPAR philosophy of being part of the global community, not just geographically, but also getting involved at grass-roots level in sustainable community development pro-

"One of our core values is 'We Owe Today

to Tomorrow', and we are proud to lead the way in the retail sector in environmental initiatives, with support from Clean & Green, EMA and the environment and Tourism ministry. We are dedicated to protecting the environment in line with the President's Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," said Cypren Borerwe, general manager of SPAR Zimbabwe.

SPAR Zimbabwe also sits on the SPAR International Responsible Retailers' Forum, working globally towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to address global challenges, including climate change, environmental degradation, and pollution.

SPAR International's focus in this regard is on the development and implementation of sustainable packaging and recycling.

"This gives us very valuable insight into international best practises, as well as allowing us the opportunity to benefit from the successes and avoid the errors from pilot projects in environmental initiatives from other SPAR member countries," Borerwe said.

"As members of the SPAR International Responsible Retailers Forum, we are very aware of the environmental threat of single-use plastics. We have implemented a number of measures to try and reduce our contribution to this problem.

"Our SPAR Zimbabwe, carrier bags are made from 100% recycled plastics, and are supplied by Polyfoil. SPAR Zimbabwe stores have been using the recycled plastic bags since 2016. We were the first retailers in Zimbabwe to introduce a paper bag alternative to plastic

"All SPAR corporate stores offer paper carrier bags as an alternative to single-use plastics. These bags are water-resistant and durable enough to be reused several times. We take part annually in the 'Plastic Free July' international awareness campaign, encouraging consumers to 'Say no to single-use plastics'.'

SPAR Zimbabwe environmental initiatives in-

- •Regular participation in the Presidential clean-up campaign with monthly community clean-ups at 40 stores nationwide.
- •Recycling bins at all SPAR corporate stores to
- encourage separation of recyclable materials.

 •A monthly partnership with Clean and Green, whereby their environmental officer visits all the corporate SPAR stores on a rotational basis to carry out recycling training and to assist stores with the implementation and maintenance of separation of waste at source.
- •In-store recycling programme to reduce the volume of waste that is sent to the dumpsites.
- •Working with local recycling pickers who collect from the stores on a regular basis.
- ●Collaboration with EMA and Clean & Green Zimbabwe on promoting anti-litter campaigns, as well as creating awareness in the community for plastic-free alternatives.
- •Recycling informational posters which are displayed outside all SPAR corporate stores
- •The production and distribution of a recycling guide pamphlet. This is a very useful guide for end-consumers to keep at home for reference when sorting their own domestic waste.
- •Partnership with Refuse Collection Services for all our public events, ensuring that all litter is collected, separated, weighed and recycled or sent to the dumpsites.

Refuse Collection Services compile a comprehensive report based on kilogrammes of waste collected, broken down into plastics, glass, aluminium, paper and refuse.

"At SPAR Zimbabwe, we pride ourselves on being pro-active and keeping ahead of retail trends. Sustainability and protecting the environment are listed as two of our main strategic thrusts for the next few years, and as such we are committed to working with the ministry, EMA, local councils and Clean & Green towards finding practical, cost-effective, feasible solutions in the move from a linear to a circular economy," Borerwe said.





Why solar is an environmentally friendly choice

S we celebrate this day, at DPA we continue to seek opportunities in renewable energy, encouraging the uptake of a greener, environmentally-friendly, safer and sustainable way of doing business.

We believe that renewable energy can be the future source for powering new technologies for a brighter Africa with smart cities, and various energy-dependent industries.

Africa's electricity mix shows a high dependency on both water and fossil fuels for power generation, and over the recent years, power supply in most of sub-Sahara Africa has been very erratic.

Amongst other reasons, this has been due to the use of antiquated power plants and old technology.

Additionally, changing climatic conditions have affected rain patterns and seasons and led to a marked decline in hydro-power generation in countries like Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The installation of large commercial solar photovoltaic solutions could address Zimbabwe's energy deficit and meet the country's solar energy potential of an estimated 5kWh/ m2/year and is in support of the country's commitment to reduce 33% of its carbon footprint by 2030.

A study undertaken by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, 2014) estimated that Africa's solar PV theoretical potential could provide the continent with more than 660 000 TWh of electricity a year, far above its projected needs.

Businesses are being encouraged to adopt renewable sources of energy and commendably, some environmentally conscious businesses across Africa have begun going green.

The impact on the environment from the use of solar is positive as the amount of greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Distributed Power Africa has saved over 100 000 trees through carbon dioxide emis-



sions savings on deploying solar plants for commercial customers across Africa.

Organisations such as Liquid Intelligent Technologies, Econet Wireless Zimbabwe, Schweppes, UNESCO, Surrey, Ecobank, Tanganda Tea Company, Kefalos Foods and many others have been part of this GREEN milestone — adopting solar as a sustainable business strategy through

As solar can be deployed on already existing infrastructure such as roof-tops and carports, the physical environment is largely left untouched, and can have a positive impact on the ecosystem as reforestation efforts are increased.

In line with SDG 7, (Affordable and Clean Energy) Distributed Power Africa's focus is to ensure sustainable energy solutions are implemented in our own offices, and also promote green solutions for our valued stakeholders.

The business is committed to green energy, ultimately reducing the use of nonrenewable resources and creating opportunities for increased electricity genera-

Our green energy solutions ensure cleaner production systems, pollution prevention, reduce costs and ensure that the business achieves its sustainable environmental management targets and mitigate effects of climate change and global warming. Contact us on enquiries@dpaafrica. com and we will assist you with a GREEN solution

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FROM B1

attitudes towards environmental issues.

The global theme for the 2021 World Environment Day is Ecosystem Restoration. The United Nations General Assembly has declared the years 2021 through to 2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The decade coincides with the deadline for the sustainable development goals and the timeline scientists have identified critical for avoiding the worst impacts of climate change.

The decade is designed to prevent, halt and reverse the loss and degradation of ecosystems worldwide. A global call to action, the UN Decade draws together political support, scientific research, and financial muscle to massively scale up restoration.

The UN Decade is intended to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems to fight the climate crisis, prevent the loss of a million species and enhance food security water supply and livelihoods. Reviving natural carbon sinks such as forests and peatlands — could help close the climate emissions gap by 25% by 2030.

Replanting with native tree species can also help buffer some of the expected devastating effects of a warming planet, such as increased risk of forest fires. Currently, 3,2 billion people — 40% of the world's population — suffer from the continued degradation of ecosystems by losing access to fertile soil or safe drinking water.

Local theme

Zimbabwe is commemorating the day under the theme Strong Location Institutions — Key to Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration.

The theme is in line with the 2021 global focus on ecosystem restoration, with a special focus on creating a good relationship with nature, hence the need to build capacity in local communities for sustainable environmental management. This also comes handy for Zimbabwe which is battling with several environmental challenges which include bush encroachment, surface water body siltation, severe gulley erosion, massive deforestation, and invasive alien species infestation. Therefore, this gives the community the window to identify opportunities for ecosystem restoration and also learn from what other communities are doing.

This year's thrust hinges on ecosystems restoration highlighting activities/projects being implemented by various communities, businesses, institutions, and civil society in order to protect and conserve nature/ biodiversity/ecosystems. The national commemoration will be held at Gala Primary School in Bulilima district, Matabeleland South province.

LET'S RESTORE THE **ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER**



Our sustainable energy solutions ensure that future generations live in a clean and better environment.

Contact us for a tailored solution.

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Our environment is our life — Let's go MAD

BE THE DIFFERENCE



Make a difference (M.A.D) today! Take responsibility of your communities by disposing litter the right way. Separate all PET bottles before disposal. Recycle to curb pollution and ensure a clean and healthy environment.



Plant and Factory - 41 Dover Road, Ardbennie, Harare Tisungureiwo Co-operative -19351 Stevenson Road, Graniteside SHEQ Ambassadors - Kamunhu Shopping Centre Mabvuku

GN Plastics - 76 Wolverhampton Road, Bulawayo



Yellow Portion Services - No 21 Chimoio Street, Mutare

No 55 Goods Avenue, Stuart Lloyd Complex

Masvingo Recycling Solutions - No 964, Industrial Road, Masvingo

@DeltaCorporationInTheCommunity









The only cure for litter is you



Delta MAD clean-up campaign team in Glen Lorne, Harare







Tanganda tea company solar plant by (DPA) **Distributed Power**

Five advantages of solar energy on the environment

AN increasing number of businesses and households are choosing to install solar panels to help reduce their energy costs. By using the power that you've generated on your own roof, you can save hundreds each year and become less

reliant on the power grid.

More widely, solar power is also a great sustainable, green energy choice. Solar energy doesn't only help reduce your electricity bills; it also has huge benefits for our planet.

Some of the key advantages of solar energy on the environment include:

Using less water

Water is one of our most precious natural resources. Traditional electricity production can use thousands of litres of water each year. Water is used for cooling generators, processing and refining fuel and transporting fuel through pipes. Generating power through solar panels, however, uses no water whatsoever. The operation of solar photovoltaic cells doesn't require water at all to generate electricity, reducing the strain on this precious resource. The only water needed is rainwater to naturally clean the panels when they get a bit grubby!

Reducing air pollution

The air we breathe can help or hinder our health and wellbeing. Electricity generation from fossil fuels can generate harmful carbon-dioxide and methane gases that lower the quality of the air we breathe. Breathing poor quality air on a daily basis can have dire consequences for our health. Air pollution has been linked to asthma and allergies, bronchitis, pneumonia, headaches, anxiety, heart attacks and even some cancers. Using the sun to generate more and more of our power means less and less harmful emissions from burning fossil fuels. Generating electricity from solar panels produces no harmful emissions, and the more homes and businesses that rely on solar power means less toxic emissions from fossil fuels into our air.

Help to slow climate change

The release of toxic gases into the atmosphere, such as carbon-dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, doesn't just contribute to air pollution, but also contributes to the enhanced greenhouse effect. While the greenhouse effect is a natural process that warms the earth's surface to a liveable temperature, human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, have increased the amount of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. This has led to the enhanced greenhouse effect, which is warming our earth faster than ever before. In recent years, this has been linked to a number of catastrophic weather events, such as flooding, cyclones, storms, extreme heat and drought. Generating electricity from solar panels produce no greenhouse gases whatsoever, and so can help to reduce the effect of climate change if used widely. With solar energy powering a home or business, there is no burning of fuel and no emissions from energy production.

Reducing your household's/business carbon footprint

Solar energy is one of the cleanest sources of energy, and it's an extremely effective way of your household or business to be more efficient and sustainable. Solar panels don't use any water to generate electricity, they don't release harmful gases into the environment, and the source of their energy is abundant and, best of all, free. Using solar energy instead of the grid also means you reduce the need for carbon dioxide emitting energy to be produced for the grid on your behalf — for energy users in the city you could offset anywhere between a half to one tonne of carbon-dioxide for every megawatt-hour of solar energy you use. With even a small system installed on your home or business, you can help reduce your carbon footprint and contribute

personally to Zimbabwe's Renewable energy target. • Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels

Solar energy supplies are massive; if we could harness all of the sunlight shining on the earth for just one hour, we could use that energy to power the entire world for a whole year. The sunshine used in solar energy production is free, and there's lots of it. On the other hand, fossil fuels are running out, and fast. Reducing our reliance on these finite resources and taking advantage of an abundant, free source of energy, such as sunlight, could mean lower energy prices, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and a stronger, more stable energy future.

Solar power has wide-ranging advantages for our planet, especially when it comes to our environment from reducing greenhouse gases, improving our air quality and conserving our precious water, solar energy can help to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and lower energy prices for years to come

Owning a solar power system is no longer a pipe dream for households and business in the Zimbabwe. Installation costs have gone down drastically over the years. Banks have started offering financing programmes specifically for those who want to purchase solar power systems through loans, there are a variety of financing options to help you hitch onto the solar bandwagon and start increasing the value of your home increasing its value or your business adopting solar as a strategy saving money and the environment. — Online

