

# Case Study: Cardiff Modern School, Baidra City Egypt

## Climate Communities and Partnerships

### CLIMATE ACTION EDUCATION

Imagine a world in which young people across seven continents connect virtually and solve one of the world's most pressing challenges: Climate Change.

Cardiff Modern School is a British international school. We strive to be the leading and the top-ranked educational system in Egypt.

To provide education for development, cultivate academic growth, establish life-long learners, inspire creativity and nurture the diversity of our community. We believe in: Good citizenship among staff.

Respecting each other's right to learn and teach.

Treating others how we want to be treated.

Challenging students to reach their full potential.

Acknowledging that students, teachers and Parents must share in the responsibility for learning.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

The Climate Action Schools Program is a paid, year-long project allowing schools, districts, and networks with students ages 5-18 to collaborate at local and global levels on environmental topics.

Over the course of the project, classrooms explore the causes and effects of climate change, develop solutions, and take action as a school community.

### PORTRAIT OF A CHAMPION

Educator Anan AbdElRahman the Head of the Lower Secondary English Department and the Professional Development Coordinator at Cardiff Modern School. She has over 16 years of experience in teaching English and hold various certifications, including TESOL and FELT. She is a certified teacher trainer with the British Council, a RELO Mentor Trainer with the U.S. Embassy, and an online MOOC facilitator at Arizona State University. Additionally, she is a presenter at national, international, and presidential conferences.

### AT A GLANCE

#### Climate Action Schools

- Goals
- Solutions
- Results
- Lessons Learned

#### Call To Action

- Lessons Learned
- Conclusion
- Recommendations

### School Facts

- School type: International school (private)
- Grade level of students: from Fs1 to year 7
- Students: Around 300
- Faculty members: around 100
- Academic year: September to June



## Mission.

We pioneer solutions in climate education and student action, empowering students, teachers, and partners, to reverse climate change and realize environmental justice for all.

## Vision.

We believe in an environmentally just world, where informed and inspired young people are the stewards of a thriving planet.



## GOALS

Cardiff Modern School places students at the heart of its climate action efforts, recognizing their engagement and understanding as critical drivers of meaningful change and a sustainable future. Currently, the school promotes climate action through recycling programs, environmental clubs, tree-planting days, and integrating climate education into the curriculum. Of these initiatives, the environmental clubs have been particularly impactful, empowering students to lead projects and fostering a sense of ownership in their actions.

This year, the school aims to increase student participation in sustainability initiatives, reduce its carbon footprint by 20%, and enhance climate education across all subjects. To achieve these goals, the school plans to organize workshops, build community partnerships, and conduct regular clean-up activities. Success will be measured by tracking participation rates, the amount of waste recycled, and student feedback on climate education.

Community involvement will be key to these efforts. Students will have opportunities to engage in hands-on projects such as gardening, recycling drives, and awareness campaigns, while educators will receive support through professional development workshops and shared resources to help integrate climate topics into lessons. Local environmental organizations and parents with expertise in sustainability will also be invited to collaborate on projects and speak to students.

To share their learning and promote climate action, the school will use a dedicated newsletter, social media updates, and community events. Presenting student-led projects at local fairs and assemblies will further amplify their message. A 1-hour meeting with the School Leader or a trusted colleague, scheduled between October 18-31, will help refine these plans and ensure successful implementation.

## SOLUTIONS

At Cardiff Modern School in Cairo, Anan Abdelrahman, the Climate Action Champion, introduced a series of creative and impactful initiatives to engage students in climate education and foster a culture of sustainability. One of her first actions was to start a Climate Change Writing and School Magazine project, where students wrote articles on climate change from the very first day of school. These articles were compiled into a school magazine, allowing students to develop their research and writing skills while raising awareness about environmental issues.

In December, Anan organized an Annual Climate Change Show, where students performed a play depicting the effects of climate change in 2050. The performance included songs, storytelling, and a news report segment, which was recorded through virtual rehearsals. This event highlighted the school's commitment to blending creative expression with digital technology to raise awareness about climate change.



Another key initiative was the "Go Green" Initiative, where Year 8 students led younger classes in planting small trees and promoting recycling. The school introduced separate recycling bins for glass, cans, and paper, making it easier for students to adopt sustainable habits. Alongside these efforts, students used AI for research and poster design, collaborated on Padlet for brainstorming climate change solutions, and explored Virtual Reality (VR) to design visuals that deepened their understanding of the issue.

Anan also worked to integrate climate education across subjects. Teachers from English, Science, and Social Studies collaborated to incorporate climate themes into their lessons, with students creating poems, speeches, and academic assignments centered around climate change. This interdisciplinary approach encouraged students to engage with climate issues from various perspectives.

Finally, responding to local environmental challenges, the school launched a tree-planting initiative after the government removed trees from the surrounding area. This local action allowed students to take hands-on steps toward improving their environment.

## RESULTS

The initiatives had a profound impact on both students and the school community. One of the most notable outcomes was the increased student engagement. Initially hesitant students became more motivated through scaffolded learning and creative activities. The leadership opportunities provided by initiatives like the "Go Green" project helped students take ownership of sustainability efforts, with many organizing and promoting these activities themselves.

In addition to increased engagement, students developed important skills, including communication, collaboration, digital literacy, and critical thinking. The annual show, in particular, provided a platform for students to gain confidence in public speaking and performance, allowing them to express their ideas on climate change in a creative and impactful way.

The initiatives also had a school-wide impact, with climate action becoming a shared responsibility across all grades and subjects. The "Go Green" initiative united both students and teachers in a common mission, creating a sense of collective ownership of sustainability efforts throughout the school. Anan's work was recognized beyond the school, as she presented her methods for fostering student motivation through climate projects at both national and international conferences, including those held at the American University in Cairo and the British University in Egypt.

## CONCLUSION

Through Anan's leadership, Cardiff Modern School successfully integrated climate action into the curriculum, transforming students from initially reluctant participants to passionate climate advocates. By adopting a cross-curricular approach, blending traditional learning with technology, and employing creative methods to engage students, the school fostered a culture of sustainability. Despite challenges such as time constraints and initial teacher resistance, the school-wide activities helped build a shared responsibility for the environment, and students emerged as confident and motivated advocates for climate action.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Looking to the future, Anan has several key goals to continue building on the success of these initiatives. One of her main objectives is to strengthen external partnerships, connecting with global networks to expand the school's climate initiatives. Anan also plans to continue developing interdisciplinary projects that align with climate education, ensuring that sustainability remains a central theme across all subjects.

The "Go Green" initiative will be expanded to include more community engagement activities, allowing the school to reach beyond its walls and involve the wider community in sustainability efforts. After the Ramadan and Eid vacation, Anan aims to reconnect with international collaborators, sharing ideas and best practices to further enhance the school's climate initiatives.

Anan's ultimate goal is to inspire other educators, and she hopes to share her approach with schools around the world to encourage the adoption of climate action projects. Her advice to fellow educators is clear: **"Start small. Even if people are against you, begin with small steps and scaffold toward bigger goals. Be innovative and support student-led initiatives. With perseverance, meaningful change is possible."**

