

Delivery for the future: the postal network as infrastructure for lifelong climate education

Concept note

- Location: COP28 Green Zone – Knowledge Hub, Room Al Maktaba
- Date and Time: 4 December 2023, 14.00 to 14.45

Context

In order to combat the climate crisis effectively, we must find innovative ways to boost society's ability to mitigate, adapt and recover. To this end, education is a key tool. Postal enterprises have a longstanding partnership with the educational sector, serving a wide array of learning needs, especially in remote and local communities. In today's world, which is heavily impacted by climate change, these partnerships are invaluable. Posts have the unique reach to facilitate the delivery of climate education to those who need it most.

With the Congress decision to adopt the "green package", the 192 member countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) committed to boosting climate action, enabling the global postal community to work with partners to contribute to a more sustainable future.

Through a range of initiatives, such as promoting green delivery options, introducing eco-friendly packaging and implementing recycling programmes, Posts are showcasing their ability to bridge the knowledge gap and effectively disseminate climate-related information. By utilizing their well-established and trusted local networks, they can reach diverse audiences with tailored climate messages.

The wide range of customer interaction points offered by Posts – including service counters, home delivery options, direct mail marketing and various digital platforms – can serve to enable a more dynamic and adaptable approach to community education. The extensive network of postal outlets also opens up possibilities with regard to sharing infrastructure for educational purposes, thus reaching a wider population.

Moreover, specific services – such as doorstep collection of recyclable materials – facilitate practical sustainability efforts by applying knowledge gained from climate education and fostering a culture of environmental consciousness and behavioural change.

By supporting climate education, Posts stand to gain substantially. They cultivate a customer base that is more aware and appreciative of eco-friendly products and services, nurture a workforce equipped with the knowledge to drive the sector's climate objectives, and spur innovations for their overarching commitment to climate action. However, the full potential of postal networks in climate education can be optimized only through strategic partnerships with entities within education systems, aimed at supporting those hit hardest by the climate crisis.

This workshop will examine how Posts can act as a platform for lifelong climate education, bolstering the ties between the postal and educational sectors. It will bring together voices from the global postal, educational and climate policy communities to discuss collaborative strategies.

Agenda/form of discussion

14:00-14:10 Opening Remarks

- Mr Obaid AlQatami, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Emirates Post Group
- Mr Angus Mackay, Director, Division for Planet, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Mr Sergey Dukelskiy, Sustainability and Financial Services Coordinator, UPU

14:10 - 14:40 Moderated discussion**– *Climate crisis, greening education and challenges***

This session delves into the pressing challenges in greening education, underscoring the need for inclusivity and local reach. The aspiration to achieve greening communities will be a focal point.

Facilitator: Ms Cristina Rekakavas, Specialist, Green Development and Climate Change, UNITAR

– *The postal network as infrastructure for climate education*

Postal community stakeholders will be expected to take the leading role in sharing experience of facilitating local access to education, using postal channels to identify societies' demand for climate knowledge, the sharing of climate knowledge in service delivery, and the potential to share infrastructure for education purposes. This session will also cover the impact of climate education on the future of the postal sector.

Facilitator: Ms Yaxuan Chen, Sustainability Services Expert, UPU

14:40-14:45 Concluding remarks

The event will close with a summary of the key insights and a brief look at the next steps to ensure continuity in action and collaboration.

Intended audience: universities, intergovernmental organizations with an education mandate, postal community representatives, logistics companies, non-governmental organizations centred on local climate resilience.