**Press Release**

**Expo Live to welcome 43 innovative grassroots climate solutions   
from around the world to pitch for funding and a place at COP28**

* **Start-ups from 37 countries will pitch to judges at three-day Expo City Dubai event**
* **Ideas span carbon, energy, food security, waste, water, finance and restoration**
* **Selected projects to receive funding, support and exposure at COP28 climate summit**

**Download accompanying assets** [**here**](https://expocitydubai-my.sharepoint.com/personal/sandy_barqawi_expocitydubai_ae/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fsandy%5Fbarqawi%5Fexpocitydubai%5Fae%2FDocuments%2FExpo%20Live&ga=1)

**DUBAI, 9 May 2023 –** Forty-three short-listed social enterprises from 37 countries will arrive at Expo City Dubai on Wednesday, presenting their innovative solutions to climate-related challenges in the hope of receiving backing from the Expo Live Innovation Programme.

The grassroots organisations from Tonga to Sierra Leone, Finland to French Polynesia have been chosen from more than 1,200 applications from 123 countries. They will bring ideas spanning biodiversity and ocean restoration, air quality, transport and carbon, as well as food security, waste, energy, water, finance and vulnerable communities to the three-day pitching event running from 10-12 May.

Following interviews and presentations to Expo Live’s panel of expert judges, successful projects will receive access to funding, technical guidance, support and partnership opportunities, along with the prospect of showcasing their solutions at the COP28 climate conference, which Expo City Dubai will host from 30 November to 12 December.

**Yousuf Caires, Executive Director, Expo Live Innovation Programme**, said: “The volume and calibre of the environmental, conservation and climate solutions we have seen from around the world clearly demonstrates the global community possesses the creativity and innovation to address the urgent issue of climate change.

“Every idea that has made it through to this final stage has the power to improve people’s lives and have a tangible, positive impact on the future of our planet. We are looking forward to hearing more about their inspiring solutions, to welcoming the selected projects to our community of Global Innovators, and to proudly sharing these ideas with climate decision-makers from around the world when we host COP28 later this year.”

Pitching entrepreneurs include a UAE-based organisation that is turning carbon dioxide into rock; an Indian company producing a carbon-negative building material known as ‘Agrocrete’; a Burundi-based venture that is transforming banana waste into eco-friendly packaging; and a women-led, regenerative organic ‘Turba Farm’ in Lebanon capable of producing three times more food while mitigating climate change.

To date and across five cycles, Expo Live has supported 140 Global Innovators from 76 countries, with around one third related to sustainability issues. The programme has positively impacted 5.8 million people worldwide, restoring 36 million hectares of land, offsetting 190,000 tonnes of CO2, and saving 6.3 million litres of water.

In line with the UAE’s ‘Year of Sustainability’ in 2023 and a reflection Expo City Dubai’s long-term commitment to deliver positive social, economic and environmental change, this sixth edition launched in February and continues Expo Live’s purpose to provide an invaluable platform for accelerating entrepreneurial spirit, demonstrating the power of collaboration and innovation to further human progress.

Expo Live was initiated under Expo 2020 Dubai and continues as part of Expo City Dubai, helping innovators from around the world develop solutions to pressing challenges and backing projects that improve people’s lives or preserve the planet.

Details of all 43 ideas and a full schedule of the event can be found in the accompanying documents. Media are welcome to attend any part of the event, and interviews can be requested via [press.office@expocitydubai.ae](mailto:press.office@expocitydubai.ae).

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**About Expo City Dubai**

* Expo City Dubai, the legacy of Expo 2020 Dubai, is based on the belief that a broad coalition of people, working together, can propel human progress to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all
* A clean, green, innovation-driven, human-centric city of the future, Expo City Dubai is designed as a blueprint for sustainable urban planning, galvanising action on its journey to carbon neutrality
* Packed with educational, cultural and entertainment offerings, Expo City Dubai celebrates human creativity and ingenuity and inspires future generations
* Its business ecosystem embraces technology and innovation and supports the UAE’s wider diversification and growth aims
* Residential communities redefine urban living, exemplifying best practice in innovative, environment-friendly design with a focus on wellbeing and happiness
* Expo City Dubai is the go-to destination for globally significant events, including COP28

**For media enquiries, please contact** [**press.office@expocitydubai.ae**](mailto:press.office@expocitydubai.ae)

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