


EcoConsulting Expert

Maya Karkour

Biography & Relevant Expertise

Maya Karkour is an Environmental & Circular Economy Specialist, an Eco-Entrepreneur, and the Managing Director of EcoConsulting which she co-founded in 2003 in the UK. EcoConsulting (www.ecoconsulting.net and on LinkedIn at ) is a specialized sustainability consultancy with a focus on reworking the relationship between businesses, institutions, municipalities, corporations, households and the Environment through greater energy-efficiency, better resource use, pollution mitigation, as well as healthier and circular solutions. EcoConsulting offers a broad range of inter-related sustainability services, such as eco-building guidance, LEED & BREEAM certifications, energy-efficiency advice, dynamic thermal modelling as well as other environmental services including: corporate environmental /sustainability policies and awareness campaigns, environmental education, and coaching eco-entrepreneurs. Maya and the EcoConsulting team have a wide experience and professional expertise in organizing, administering, and moderating conferences, workshops & events on various sustainability topics, including the circular economy, eco-design, and eco-building.

Maya moved back to Beirut, Lebanon in 2008 to create EcoConsulting in Lebanon. She oversees or has directly worked on numerous projects aiming at reducing their environmental footprint –including the eco-renovation of Casa Batroun, the first project in the Middle-East to achieve the British BREEAM “Excellent” green building certificate in February 2014 and the Lebanese Architects Sustainability Award in 2017. Maya has been a keynote speaker or moderator at various sustainability/environmental conferences in Lebanon and other countries; she has conducted numerous green building, sustainability, circular economy and environmental seminars & workshops; and written or been featured in a few articles—including her own eco-flat renovation in central Beirut.

Additionally, Maya has been since 2015 one of the main local trainers & coach of the SwitchMed Green Entrepreneurship program in Lebanon, and for many other regional green entrepreneurship programs, and one of the local mentors of the Mowgli Mentorship program. She has been assisting environmental start-ups with innovative entrepreneurial solutions in the ideation phase in the development of their green business canvas as well as during the first phase of implementation of their projects through the writing of their green business plan and is mentoring pro-bono some eco or social entrepreneurs to help them establish themselves and scale up. Throughout her experience as an eco-entrepreneur and in green entrepreneurship, Maya has developed an extensive network and close contacts with many social & eco-entrepreneurs in Lebanon, including most current Switchers. Maya was selected under SwitchMed to enable the creation the **EcoSwitch Coalition**, a partnership of institutions & corporations to strengthen the support for green enterprises in Lebanon, and has been currently elected as Chair of the EcoSwitch Coalition. The coalition comprises over 30 Partners to date, with access and collaboration with a large network of experts from all fields to support green entrepreneurs depending on their specific needs.

Maya has also been actively promoting the Circular Economy and sustainable practices in Lebanon through workshops, as the local representative of the Circular Economy Club in Beirut, and more recently by launching the Circular Hub of EcoConsulting. She came up with the idea of establishing a learning space in Beirut to learn about the environment, the circular economy, sustainability, climate change as well as eco & social entrepreneurship, through a variety of seminars, workshops, activities & games offered on a regular basis. The **Circular Hub** was thus created and launched in September 2019 with the support of the EcoConsulting team. The space is fully circular, renovated using upcycled materials, waste leftover and re-used furniture. Its mission is to contribute in accelerating the change towards an eco-responsible society by spreading environmental awareness & knowledge; creating an accessible, resourceful & multi-disciplinary learning space; and collaborating with like-minded people & experts.

More information on Facebook and Instagram at TheCircularHub  



Maya has been fully engaged as a Board member of the Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA) since 2013 and was the President of the association (Jan 2018-Feb 2021), also in charge of developing and helping implement Environmental Education programs on the Trail, working with the Ministry of Education and public schools.

Maya holds an MSc (hons) in Environment & Sustainable Policies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, has attended a Masters in Urban Planning at Alba University and is a LEED Accredited Professional, a BREEAM Licensed Assessor, a Low Carbon Energy Assessor, and holds a Permaculture Design Certificate, first level. Maya is also a Circular Economy Specialist of the Circular Economy Institute and the Circular Economy Alliance, and has obtained the Permaculture Design Certificate, first level. Additionally, Maya is a fellow of the Middle East Leadership Initiative (MELI), Class IV, of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

Maya is fluent in English, French, Arabic, and speaks/reads advanced Spanish and intermediate Italian. She has extensively travelled, lived and worked in different countries and is familiar with many different cultures, in particular across the Mediterranean and in Arab countries.