

Maya Karkour

Biography

Maya Karkour is an Environmental Consultant, 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 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. She has organized and animated a panel with over 120 attendees in 2017 on *Agriculture & Climate Change*, has been selected to coach all presenters, organize, and moderate an event for the EU Delegation in Lebanon in December 2019, entitled “*Towards a Green Society in Lebanon?*”, and was invited as a speaker on “*Enabling a Circular Economy*” at the CSR Lebanon Forum in October 2019.

Additionally, Maya has been since 2015 one of the main local trainers & coach of the SwitchMed Green Entrepreneurship (phase I) program in Lebanon, is currently a local coach for social/eco-entrepreneurs in the BADAEL/OXFAM project and has been selected as one of the local mentors of the Mowgli Mentorship program. She has been coaching environmental start-ups with innovative entrepreneurial solutions and is mentoring some eco or social entrepreneurs to help them establish themselves and scale up. 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.

Maya has been fully engaged as a Board member of the Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA) since 2013 and is currently the President of the association, also in charge of developing and helping implement Environmental Education programs on the Trail, working with the Ministry of Education and public schools. Her current role as President of the association involves amongst other things taking strategic decisions with regards to supporting and sustaining the Lebanon Mountain Trail (LMT) as a responsible tourism destination, both on the local and international scene.

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