



STRATEGIC
YOUTH NETWORK
FOR DEVELOPMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**FEBRU
ARY**

CLIMATE CHANGE

C4C COLLABORATES WITH IDOBRO FOR RISE SUMMIT 2024.

Towards fostering global collaboration and innovative solutions for pressing environmental challenges, the Children for Climate Action collaborated with Idobro Impact Solutions, Mumbai for the RISE World Summit under the theme "Think Different, Act Together".

The event took place at High Speed Schools Limited, Pokuase and was attended by 50 Ghanaian students from High Speed Schools Limited and simultaneously, 40 students from three schools from Mumbai and Thane region; EuroSchool Airoli, Euroschool UpperThane, and Anjuman-I- Islam, Bandra via video conference.



Key experts for the event included Project Lead for Children for Climate Action at SYND, Sarfoh Danquah and Deepali Bhagwate Sr. Impact Lead- Citizenship who enriched the interactive sessions and provided valuable insights into effective climate action and cross-cultural collaboration.

The event not only broadened the perspectives of the students but also facilitated a cross-cultural understanding that is crucial in today's interconnected world.

The summit, emphasised the importance of global cooperation in addressing environmental challenges and the significance of youth-led initiatives towards empowering the Next generation of environmental leaders.



CLIMATE CHANGE

YOUTH-NREG HOLDS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

On Friday 9th February, 2024, the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance organised a capacity building workshop for the Technical Working Group of the platform which was formed prior to play a crucial role in promoting Natural Resource for present and future generation.

Excited participants of the workshop voiced their willingness to learn and contribute their diverse perspectives to make a lasting impact.

Executive Coordinator of SYND, Chibeze Ezekiel enlightened participants on how to conduct technical reviews and analysis. He also underscored the need for policy advocacy and youth inclusion in policy making and outlined steps in conducting document analysis.



Participants were educated on the rules of engagements as a technical working group in order to maintain impartiality and fairness in decision-making.

Using the Emissions Levy Act as a case study, discussions were held and the Vice Executive Coordinator of SYND, Solomon Yamoah shared his views on the significance of the Levy Act and recommended strategies for proposing a position paper.

Mr. Ezekiel also outlined steps that could be taken to draft and finalise a position paper on the Emissions Levy Act.





MARCH



CLIMATE CHANGE

YOUTH NREG EMBARKS ON MAIDEN TERTIARY STUDENTS OUTREACH AT UESD

As part of its objective to enhance the knowledge of students on Natural Resources and Environmental (NRE) issues, the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) platform embarked on its maiden educational outreach at the University of Environmental and Sustainable Development (UESD) in Soman-ya.

The event took place on the 1st March 2024 under the theme "Empowering Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance".

In his address, the SRC Vice President of the school, Chris Afari Addo, highlighted the importance of transitioning from awareness of the NRE sector to taking actionable steps in society, stressing on the significance of innovation in challenging stereotypes about young people and driving positive change.

The Vice Executive Coordinator of SYND, Solomon Yamoah expressed his gratitude to the participants for their dedication to Youth inclusion.

Building on the atmosphere duly created, Justina Amoah delivered a presentation on the relevance of the Youth-NREG platform, its core mandates, activities and future plans.

Managing Partner for FiveSixFive Limited, Maame Gaisey led an interactive session on the theme "Beyond Academics, skills required for successful careers". She centred on the need to have certain "relevant" skills in order to be unique in a competitive workspace where there is an Influx of AI and other competitors. She highlighted different categories of skills that not only draw revenue but add value to individuals who carry them. She advised students to start building themselves, set goals, analyse themselves and seek help if need be in order to position themselves to have successful careers.

Executive Coordinator of SYND, Chibeze Ezekiel took the students of UESD through the objectives and goals of the organisation. Introducing them to the theme for the year "We are Shifting", he briefed them on the steps to take and the approaches to achieve it. He educated the students on various job opportunities in the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance sector and encouraged them to take a step towards contributing their quota to NREG.

After introducing the various campus coordinators, the Focal lead of the platform, Justina Amoah duly launched the Accra node of the Students Youth-NREG platform.



CLIMATE CHANGE

YOUTH-NREG ORGANISES SECOND STUDENT OUTREACH AT KNUST

The second edition of the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance educational outreach came off on Friday, 18th March at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi.

Participants were taken into a deep dive on the theme, 'Empowering Youth: Shaping the future of Natural Resources and Environmental Governance'.



Speakers for this edition were the Executive Coordinator of SYND and Chibeze Ezekiel; Managing Partner for FiveSix-Five Limited Maame Gaisey. Adding to the excitement was an insightful panel discussion with Dr. Lawrence Brobbey, lecturer of Silviculture and Management, KNUST and Dr. Frank Baffour-Ata, lecturer at the Environmental Science Department, KNUST.

Excited students were opened up to opportunities in the NRE sector, steps to take in building their portfolio and the need to avail themselves to use their skills to take actions that make them relevant.

They were also advised to find a space where they can be relevant and get paid for doing what they love.

The student outreach by the Youth-NREG platform forms part of the plan for the platform to reach 30,000 young people by 2028.



CLIMATE CHANGE

YOUTH NREG HOLDS QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING IN KUMASI

The quarterly general meeting of the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) took place in Kumasi at Miklin Hotel, Kumasi. The purpose of the meeting was for members to share their progress in the Natural Resource and Environmental sector and some activities or projects they may be working on.

Members shared their progress in the areas of green minerals, climate change, sustainable farming and Forestry. They were also reintroduced to the purpose of the platform; pursuant to the National Youth Policy and birthed out of the aim of amplifying youth voices and establishing relevance in the NRE sector.

The Executive Coordinator of SYND, Chibeze Ezekiel who led the presentation, also reminded members of the need to know their potential, volunteer in their fields and take action to see change.



Members at the meeting were engaged in an intensive 5 hour capacity building workshop on "Resource Mobilisation and Grant Proposal Formation".

The session which was led by Dr. Kodima Sita was a fusion of group activities and knowledge sharing sessions.

At the end of the workshop members were encouraged to effectively use the knowledge gained to find genuine partnerships when applying for funds.



ENERGY ACCESS TEAM EMBARKS ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN KUMASI



Towards increasing awareness and demand for renewable energy sources and energy efficient products, the Energy Access team of SYND embarked on a community outreach at Tech Junction and Kentinkrono in Kumasi on 14th March 2024.

The team engaged households, artisans, traders and the youth in the community on energy use and educated them with educational materials from the Energy Commission of Ghana.

The activity also focused on the "No Label No Good" campaign by the commission and enlightened the members of the community on the need to use yellow labelled appliances, how to identify authentic labels and how to track the energy usage of their various appliances.

Some community members raised concerns regarding their appliances which included high electricity cost due to the use of second hand electronic products when engaged by the team.

Some students of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology were also quizzed on their understanding of energy efficiency and their level of awareness of the "No Label No Good" campaign.

The community engagement by the Energy Access team enlightened community members on the need to purchase energy efficient products and the importance of employing energy efficient ways.





FORESTRY

SYND COLLABORATE WITH FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR A TWO DAY WORKSHOP ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN REDD+

As part of building the capacity of youth to participate in Ghana's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation programme (REDD+), SYND collaborated with the REDD+ Secretariat under the Climate Change Directorate of the Forestry Commission and held a two-day youth engagement workshop under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP).

The event took place at the Forestry Commission Training Centre (FCTC), Akyawkrom, Ejisu from the 20th to 21st of March, 2024.

In his welcome address, the director of the Forestry Commission Training Centre, Dr. Andy Okrah encouraged participants to take advantage of the training to build their capacity and entreated them to have a long-term vision and contribute their bid to ensure that the environment is protected for the future.

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program lead at the Forestry Commission's Climate Change Directorate, Mr Thomas Gyam-brah, also reminded participants of their role as youth in the fight against climate change.

Adding that, the commission would also ensure the sustainability of the REDD+ project by engaging in youth capacity building through sensitization of the programme highlighting interventions put in place to include them

The Measurement Reporting and Verification officer of the REDD+ Secretariat, Tessia Boateng, in her presentation, provided insights into Ghana's progress in REDD+ implementation, emphasising its importance for the country's economy, agriculture, and environmental sustainability. The Forestry programme's head at SYND, Prince Yeboah Okyere, took participants through an overview of Climate Change in Ghana, giving prominence to the actions on lands that contribute to emissions and climate change.

Participants who were farmers from the Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) then shared their experiences on how Climate change has affected rainfall patterns and the increase of pests in their lands.

On the back of the effects shared, Mr. Yeboah emphasised that climate change results in harvest losses and is a threat to Ghana's food security.

The project lead of the Youth Participation in REDD+ Programme at SYND, Salomey Adjei, presented on the topic of complementary sources of livelihood and sustainable income earning.





FORESTRY



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The presentation was aimed at making participants, who are mostly farmers, understand alternative means of income that are available for them to depend on while helping save the climate.

A presentation on clean cooking innovation was done by co-founder of Bidi-Green Ghana, Eunice Mawuena Kloe. She took participants through the problems their charcoal briquettes are addressing.

These were crop and food waste, health complications. The presentation also put into focus the "waste trade" opportunity their business offers. Farmers were encouraged to take interest in selling their waste to generate income for them.

Adding to this, Salomey encouraged the HIAs and local managers under the REDD+ program to take interest in using their income from the project into training youth in some of these complementary sources of income.

The workshop ended with a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the International Day of Forest.

SYND PLANTS 2000 RED-MANGROVE SEEDLINGS IN WASAKUSE - ADA

SYND partnered the Wildlife Division of the Ada Forestry Commission to embark on their first youth-led Mangrove restoration project in Wasakuse, Ada on 7th March 2024.

This initiative which resulted in the planting of 2,000 red Mangrove seedlings of the *Rhizophora Racemosa* species was aimed at promoting biodiversity conservation and enhancing climate resilience of the surrounding communities.

Chief of Wasakuse, Nene Sewu Teye III planted the first seedling to commence the event. He expressed his appreciation to the team and the wildlife committee and encouraged them to embark on more of such projects.



Executive Coordinator of SYND, Chibeze Ezekiel also thanked the chief and community members for their support, highlighting the importance of collaboration in sustaining the ecosystem.

After the successful planting exercise, the head of the Biodiversity team at SYND, Gifty Elikplim Agbenyefia urged the participants to treat the seedlings as babies by having their growth at heart as the only way to achieve the advocated sustainable environment is to contribute to biodiversity conservation.





YGE ORGANIZES ORIENTATION AND BOOTCAMP

The Young Green Entrepreneurs (YGE) under the Strategic Youth Network for Development organized an orientation and boot camp for the initial cohorts and new cohorts in the green fields on Friday, 22 March at the Prestige Suites Hotel in Osu, Accra.

In his welcome address, Executive Coordinator of SYND, Chibeze Ezekiel stated that the reason why the youth are unable to demand for the government to waive tax is because they are scattered and so the impact they make cannot be tracked. He therefore stressed on the need for the Youth to be properly organised in order to demonstrate that they have the potential to drive some of the economic development in the country.

Head of the Energy Program at SYND, Priscilla Adogo Ahiada then gave an insightful presentation on the objectives and activities of the YGE Platform. She also gave an overview of the planned activities for 2024 and shared success mind set participants need to be disciplined in order to grow their business.

Project Lead for YGE, Maxwell Beganim took participants through an interactive learning session on the right way to segment their market using the Target Market worksheet to identify potential customers for their business as well as collaborators and competitors in order to position themselves in the right place.

The green entrepreneurs were also enlightened on the various types of markets and the right ways to position themselves as green entrepreneurs to attract sponsors in the field.

The boot camp took participants through a series of learning sessions and activity sessions aimed at fostering teamwork, generating creative ideas and imbibing the spirit of collaboration to produce greater results thus maximising profit.

The participants also engaged in a series of networking activities in order to find potential partners for their various projects.

In his closing address, Executive Coordinator of SYND, Chibeze Ezekiel urged the participants of the workshop to be on top of their game, have an ultimate goal and objective as they run their businesses. He also encouraged them to ride on government interventions to make business with their products.





MAY

Youth-NREG Convenes Maiden African Youth Conference on Natural Resources and Environmental Governance to Amplify Youth-led Environmental Solutions.



The African Youth Conference on Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (AYC on NREG) brought together 320 young leaders from across the continent in Accra, Ghana, from May 2nd to 4th, 2024. Under the theme **"Amplifying African Youth-led Solutions on Climate and Environmental Issues,"** the conference showcased the dynamism and ingenuity of Africa's youth as they addressed some of the most pressing challenges facing the continent today.

Organized entirely by the dedicated youth volunteers of the Youth-NREG platform, the conference garnered widespread admiration for its impactful execution and the powerful contributions made by young leaders from across Africa.

The opening day set a compelling tone with a keynote address by Ms. Adjei, who delivered an inspiring speech titled *"The Tenets to an Amplified Voice."* She shared essential principles for youth engagement in climate and environmental solutions, emphasizing continuous learning, grassroots innovation, and the importance of partnerships and mentorship. Ms. Adjei highlighted the success of the REDD+ program, which not only reduced emissions but also generated \$20 million in benefits for local communities. She passionately urged the youth to engage in policy-making, particularly in shaping Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and to seize opportunities to contribute to a sustainable future.

The conference featured a diverse lineup of speakers, including Emmanuel Kuyole of the Ford Foundation, Ms. Nafi Chinery of the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), Sarah Kalisa from the Canadian Embassy, Dr. Million Belay of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Dr. Antwi Boasiako Amoah from Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Richard Sandall of the British High Commission, Juma Ignatius representing Power Shift Africa (PSA), and Lynn Modester of ACCESS Coalition. Their insights underscored the critical role of youth in driving sustainable change across Africa.

The conference also celebrated inter-generational collaboration, with spoken word and stage performances by students from High Speed Schools Limited and Wisdom Ways Academy, both part of SYND's Children for Climate (C4C) project. Through powerful literary works, the students delivered poignant messages on the importance of sustainable living, leaving participants to confront the harsh realities of human impact on the environment.

Throughout the conference, youth innovations from across the continent were on display, featuring climate-focused games and activities, agricultural products, and recycled materials repurposed for reuse, demonstrating the creativity and resourcefulness of Africa's young minds.

Youth-NREG Convenes Maiden African Youth Conference on Natural Resources and Environmental Governance to Amplify Youth-led Environmental Solutions.



Day two of the conference hosted three breakout sessions on Energy Access, Agroecology, and Mining. These sessions delved into the contributions of youth to food security and sovereignty, energy transition, and the intersection of mining and biodiversity. The Agroecology session, moderated by Kofi Kisiedu Acquaye of YPARD and Sarfoh Danquah of SYND, explored the synergy between agriculture, climate action, and technology, urging young people to collaborate in tackling climate challenges and promoting food security. The energy transition session, themed *"Empowering Africa's Youth: Leading the Energy Transition,"* moderated by Rashid Latif, brought together experts such as Dr. Charles Gyamfi Ofori (ACEP), Ing. Mariam A. Agortimevor (African Coal Network), and Ray Kiliho (Pan African Youth Union), to discuss the pivotal role of youth in Africa's shift towards sustainable energy.

The conference concluded on a high note on day three, featuring a final performance by Wisdom Ways Academy and a light talk session where participants shared inspiration and reflections on the next steps following the convening. The event not only amplified the voices of Africa's youth but also set a new benchmark for youth-led initiatives in the realm of natural resources and environmental governance.



Empowering Green Entrepreneurs: YGE Hosts Insightful Masterclass on Business Models



The Young Green Entrepreneurs Platform, a flagship program by the Strategic Youth Network for Development, held an online Masterclass series on May 18, 2024, focusing on the topic of "Business Model." This session, led by Patrick Arnold, Founder and CEO of 10 Billion Strong, aimed to equip young entrepreneurs with foundational knowledge on creating sustainable and effective business models. Arnold emphasized the importance of having a solid business model before developing a business plan and provided practical insights on how green entrepreneurs can integrate economic and social value into their ventures to address climate change.

Throughout the interactive session, participants engaged with Arnold, exploring various aspects of green business models. Key topics included the significance of product development design and distribution stages on environmental impact, the necessity of strong social media expertise to convey the right information, and the critical role of communication channels in preventing misinformation. Arnold also highlighted the benefits of leveraging platforms like LinkedIn and Twitter to build networks and find the right connections for business growth.

The Masterclass underscored the importance of sustainable business practices, with Arnold guiding participants on how to develop a Sustainable Business Model Canvas. He explained that this tool helps companies understand their revenue generation processes while ensuring a strong and lasting customer relationship. Arnold stressed the need for a cost structure to monitor and track financial growth, ensuring that every expenditure is accounted for and contributes to the overall sustainability of the business.

In conclusion, the Young Green Entrepreneurs Online Masterclass series provided invaluable knowledge and tools for green entrepreneurs to create profitable and sustainable business models. By focusing on economic, social, and environmental value, these entrepreneurs are better equipped to make a positive impact while achieving business success. The Strategic Youth Network for Development continues to empower young entrepreneurs through such initiatives, fostering a generation of leaders committed to sustainability and innovation.

Experts Highlight Urgent Need for Sustainable Mining Practices during Biodiversity and Mining Breakout session at AYC2024



The African Youth Conference on Natural Resources and Environmental Governance recently gathered passionate advocates, experts, and young leaders to tackle the continent's pressing environmental challenges. Among the pivotal topics addressed was the critical interplay between biodiversity and mining at a breakout session organized by the Biodiversity and Forestry team. This session highlighted the extensive natural resources within Africa and the significant impact of mining activities on the environment. The discussions underscored the urgent need for sustainable mining practices and robust regulatory frameworks to preserve Africa's rich biodiversity for future generations.

A breakout session dedicated to biodiversity and mining revealed the gravity of illegal mining's detrimental effects. The session began with a poignant documentary showcasing the tragic consequences of mining pollution, including a mother's death during childbirth and her baby's severe deformities due to exposure to toxic chemicals. Moderated by Miss Genna, the session featured experts like Mrs. Audrey Simbisu from Zimbabwe, Dr. Andrews Agyekum, and Mr. Albert Adehokey from Ghana, and Mr. S'phamandia Muchunu from South Africa. Their discussions highlighted the severe impacts of mining on ecosystems, human health, and socio-economic stability.

Dr. Andrews Agyekum emphasized the dual nature of mining, acknowledging its potential for socio-economic development while lamenting its environmental and health hazards. He detailed how polluted water sources from mining activities hinder agricultural productivity, directly affecting farming-dependent livelihoods. Mrs. Audrey Simbisu expressed deep concern over the influx of foreign miners, particularly from China, and their harmful effects on forests, rivers, and wildlife. Mr. Maddah Muchu stressed the need for technological interventions to combat illegal mining, while Mr. Albert Adehokey highlighted the adverse health effects of mining pollutants on humans and wildlife.

The panelists unanimously agreed on the long-term detrimental impact of mining on biodiversity and ecosystem stability. Dr. Agyekum pointed out how mining disrupts ecosystems, leading to a decline in animal populations and overall biodiversity. Mrs. Audrey emphasized the socio-economic repercussions, such as conflicts over mining resources and exploitation of local communities by foreign companies. The session concluded with a call for proactive measures to address regulatory gaps and enforcement challenges. The experts urged concerted efforts from governments, communities, and individuals to safeguard biodiversity and mitigate the adverse effects of mining activities.

SYND Advances Forest Restoration Efforts in Ensonyameye - Asante Akim North Municipal



Significant progress has been made in our Forest Restoration Project in Ensonyameye, which aims to restore 200 hectares of degraded forest land through youth-led tree planting initiatives. Between May and June, the project achieved important milestones in stakeholder engagement, land title registration, and site inspection activities.

Key meetings were held with stakeholders, including the Forestry Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS). Collaboration with the Chief of Ensonyameye and the council of elders was prioritized to secure vital community support. During this period, the project successfully procured and transported 6,000 seedlings to the site and began the challenging task of land clearing, laying the groundwork for our ambitious reforestation efforts.

Crucial meetings with the Forestry Commission's Juaso District Office and the EPA's Konongo Office were instrumental in obtaining the necessary guidance, approvals, and permits. The submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and the payment of permit fees underscored the project's strong commitment to environmental compliance. Additionally, discussions with the GNFS focused on fire management strategies, including the training of fire volunteers to mitigate risks and ensure safety. A thorough site inspection assessed the cleared land's suitability for planting, with the EPA, Forestry Commission, and GNFS providing valuable recommendations on improving fire safety and species selection.

In June, the project reached another key milestone with the successful procurement and transportation of 6,000 seedlings, including Mahogany, Acacia, Mmre, and Teak. Planting commenced with each seedling carefully pegged to ensure proper growth, marking a significant step forward in our reforestation journey.

The project continues to embody the spirit of collaboration, environmental stewardship, and community engagement, driving positive change in Ensonyameye and beyond.



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Restoring Hope and Ecosystems: SYND and Prudential Life Insurance's Mangrove Planting Initiative



On June 7th, 2024, the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) and Prudential Life Insurance Ghana (PLIG) took a significant step towards environmental sustainability by launching a collaborative mangrove planting initiative in Obane, Ada. This project, part of the Green Ghana Day, aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Climate Action (SDG 13), Life Below Water (SDG 14), and Life on Land (SDG 15). The initiative aimed to address the alarming decline of mangrove forests, which have seen a reduction of over 35% in recent decades due to urbanization, overexploitation, and climate change.

Obane, a coastal community in the Ada East District, has been severely affected by the depletion of its mangroves. These vital ecosystems provide protection from coastal erosion, support fisheries, and supply resources like timber and fuelwood. The loss of mangroves has increased the community's vulnerability to coastal erosion and flooding, reduced fish populations, and led to food insecurity and habitat degradation. Community members shared their concerns about these impacts, expressing a strong desire for the restoration of their environment and livelihoods.

The planting event began with a community engagement session, where Mr. Ernest Apenkrah from the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission emphasized the importance of conserving mangroves. Mr. Chibeze Ezekiel, Executive Coordinator of SYND, highlighted the need for collaboration and extended his gratitude to the community and the Forestry Commission for their support. The Head of Prudential Life Insurance Ghana also expressed the company's commitment to environmental sustainability and community development. The community's active participation and appreciation for the initiative were evident, fostering a sense of ownership and hope for the future.

The mangrove planting exercise saw the enthusiastic involvement of community members, including women, men, and youth. Together, they planted 2,000 white mangrove seedlings (*Laguncularia racemosa*) with guidance from the Forestry Commission. This hands-on approach not only aimed to restore the ecosystem but also to build community cohesion and resilience. Moving forward, a community monitoring team will oversee the growth of the mangroves, and educational efforts will continue to promote sustainable practices. This initiative marks a significant milestone in ecological restoration and community empowerment, with the promise of long-term benefits for both the environment and the people of Obane.



C4C engages pupil of High Speed Academy on plastic recovery on World Environment Day.



In celebration of World Environment Day, themed on Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience, the C4C Action Hub of High Speed Schools Limited organized an inspiring and practical learning session. This event saw the participation of about 50 learners who creatively repurposed inorganic waste materials, transforming them into model laptops, toys, and miniature fans.

The primary aim of this initiative was to address the issue of land pollution by reducing the amount of inorganic waste that ends up in landfills. By using plastics, electronic components, and paper waste, the learners demonstrated how these materials could be given a second life, thereby promoting sustainability and environmental consciousness.

The hands-on session not only educated the students about the environmental impact of waste but also encouraged them to think innovatively about recycling and repurposing. This activity underscored the importance of practical actions in combating land pollution and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among young people.

High Speed Schools Limited remains committed to integrating environmental education into its curriculum, empowering students to become proactive advocates for the environment. This World Environment Day event is a testament to the school's dedication to fostering a sustainable future through creative and practical learning experiences.

Advancing Ghana's Energy Transition Through Youth Activism



The Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), in collaboration with Africa Movements Building Space (AMBS), successfully organized a transformative workshop themed "Promoting Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy among Young People in Ghana." Held on June 20, 2024, at the Crystal Palm Hotel in Tesano, Accra, the event brought together 60 young participants, including members of the Youth-NREG platform, CSOs, and students from the University of Ghana and the University of Media Arts and Communication - Institute of Journalism (UNIMAC-IJ).

Priscilla Ahiada Adogo, Head of Energy Access at SYND, opened the workshop with a powerful call to action, emphasizing the urgent need for youth-led initiatives in Ghana's energy sector. Highlighting the country's high greenhouse gas emissions, Priscilla stressed the importance of transitioning from fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources. She introduced the "Push and Pull Strategy" to educate the public and pressure the government, aiming to drive Ghana's energy transition towards a sustainable future.

The workshop featured insightful presentations from notable experts. Shika Apkalo, Research Consultant with the Center for Extractives and Development Africa (CEDA), discussed the economic and environmental implications of fossil fuel reliance and the benefits of adopting renewable energy solutions. Enoch Anyane, Head of Communication at SYND, elaborated on the "Pull and Push Campaign" strategy, emphasizing the role of advocacy and public engagement in driving policy changes for a sustainable energy future.

Key presentations also included contributions from Dr. Ferdinand Tornyie of UNU-INRA and Gloria Kafui Kuzo, SYND's Lead on Energy Transition. Dr. Tornyie discussed achieving a just energy transition in Africa, focusing on inclusivity, equity, job creation, and environmental protection. Gloria Kuzo showcased SYND's achievements in renewable energy projects and advocacy, highlighting their impact on over 310 young people and outlining strategies for further community engagement and capacity building.

The workshop concluded with an engaging Q&A session and the development of actionable plans for participants. The event fostered networking opportunities, empowering young people with knowledge and skills to actively contribute to Ghana's energy transition. Moving forward, SYND plans to organize regular follow-up workshops, conduct community outreaches, and mobilize resources to sustain the momentum of this crucial initiative.

Empowering Environmental Campaigners Through Strategic Social Media Training



On June 21st, 2024, the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) held a training workshop to equip 30 young environmental campaigners with vital social media skills for advocacy. Patience Agyekum, Head of Climate Change at SYND, opened the session with an inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of translating knowledge into impactful actions and encouraging participants to harness local opportunities to drive change.

Enoch Lanquaye Lamptey, introduced the basics of campaigning, setting the tone for interactive and practical learning. Participants, divided into groups, identified key environmental issues such as air pollution, poor sanitation, and illegal mining for their campaigns. Insights from Yaw Yeboah, Head of Forestry, on illegal mining's impact on water pollution enriched the discussions.

Sessions led by Enoch Anyane (Head of Communication) and Samuel Sawnzy-Baffoe focused on strategic planning and effective messaging. They emphasized SMART goals, stakeholder mapping, and overcoming opposition through factual research and strategic approaches. Enoch Essandoh provided practical tips on leveraging social media for advocacy, including visual storytelling and impactful social media campaigns.

The workshop concluded with participants presenting their refined campaign strategies and receiving constructive feedback. Mr. Chibeze Ezekiel, Executive Coordinator of SYND, highlighted the importance of youth innovation in driving change and advocated for continued support for social media activism. This successful workshop demonstrated the power of youth-driven advocacy and the critical role of social media in environmental campaigning, equipping participants to make a tangible impact in their communities.

Fostering Green Entrepreneurship through Strategic Dialogue



The Young Green Entrepreneurs flagship program organized a significant capacity-building workshop on June 28, 2024, at NARPO Hotel in Accra. Themed “Dialogue Session with Key State and Non-State Actors Supporting the Growth of Green Entrepreneurs,” the workshop aimed to connect state and non-state actors to discuss strategies, challenges, and opportunities for nurturing green entrepreneurship.

Mrs. Matilda Osei Esq., Registrar of Companies, kicked off the workshop with an enlightening presentation on entrepreneurship in Ghana. She emphasized the importance of obtaining a Ghana card and registering with the Registrar General's Department to access various tax incentives and exemptions. She highlighted the necessity of paying attention to details in documentation to avoid mistakes and stressed the core value of integrity in business operations.

Madam Selena Zefo Kere, a tax expert, discussed the role of taxation in supporting green businesses. She detailed tax incentives under the Income Tax Act (Amendment No.2) 2017 Act 956, including a five-year tax holiday, special location incentives, and a five-year carry forward of tax losses. She explained how businesses could benefit from reduced tax rates and exemptions by reinvesting profits and employing young, inexperienced workers.

Dr. Prince Ansah from CDKN led an interactive session on the role of research and development in green startups. Participants, divided into groups, developed case studies related to their businesses, which were then discussed in a panel session. This practical approach helped entrepreneurs refine their business ideas and strategies. Mr. Kelly Anyomitse from Challenges Ghana emphasized the importance of market research and growth strategies, exploring key elements like the four P's—product, price, place, and promotion—and the importance of understanding market segments and value chains.

In his closing remarks, Sarfoh Danquah urged participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained during the workshop, fostering collaboration and ensuring regulatory compliance to enhance market and financial access.

Let's Talk Agroecology: Empowering the Youth and Transforming Africa's Agricultural Landscape



From May to June 2024, we hosted a groundbreaking five-part series of X-Space events under the theme "Let's Talk Agroecology" bringing together a total of over 1000 participants joining across the five-part series. This initiative brought together experts, youth, and farmers to explore the transformative potential of agroecology in Africa. Each session provided valuable insights, practical knowledge, and inspired participants to actively engage with the agroecology movement.

Kicking off on May 23rd, Dr. Kodimah Sita and Simon Bukenya led a riveting discussion on agroecology's core principles. They emphasized the integration of scientific knowledge, practical farming techniques, and social activism to create sustainable agricultural systems. The session highlighted agroecology's role in climate adaptation and mitigation, inspiring attendees to adopt and promote these practices in their communities.

On May 30th, Dr. Kodimah Sita and Simon Bukenya returned to address the critical issue of corporate control over African food systems. They discussed the barriers to achieving food sovereignty and offered strategies for reclaiming control and ensuring food security. This session was particularly impactful as it resonated with the audience's desire for local, sustainable food systems. Attendees were motivated to advocate for policies and practices that prioritize community well-being over corporate interests.

June 6th saw a dynamic session led by Dr. Kodimah Sita, Lovans Owusu-Takyi, and Simon Bukenya, focusing on opportunities within the agroecology value chain for the youth. The speakers showcased various entrepreneurial avenues and career paths, highlighting the sector's potential for innovation and economic growth. Young participants found this session especially empowering, as it provided concrete examples of how they could engage in agroecology and contribute to their communities' development.

On June 13th, Samuel Paa Kojo Maison delivered an insightful presentation on integrating technology with agroecological practices to enhance productivity. He demonstrated how modern tools and techniques can be used to improve efficiency and yields while maintaining environmental sustainability.

The series concluded on June 26th with an engaging session where young farmers shared their best practices and personal experiences. This interactive platform allowed for peer learning and networking, providing attendees with practical tips and inspiration from those already implementing agroecological principles. The stories of success and perseverance resonated deeply with the audience, reinforcing the idea that agroecology is not just a theoretical concept but a practical, achievable goal.



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ACCESS Coalition West Africa Engage Lake Volta Communities on Impact of Mini-Grid Systems and Clean Cooking Solutions



The Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), the West Africa regional node for the ACCESS coalition, recently conducted a community engagement initiative in the Sene East District of Ghana to evaluate the impact of mini-grid energy systems initially installed to power remote communities. From July 18-19, 2024, the team members visited Wayokope and Atigagorme, two fishing communities along Lake Volta, where they assessed the social, economic, and environmental effects of the mini-grids introduced in 2016.

On the first day, representatives engaged with residents of Wayokope, a community of approximately 700 people. While the mini-grid had been essential in powering local businesses and improving access to healthcare, a recent three-month outage has left residents struggling without electricity. This disruption has significantly impacted business operations, healthcare access, and daily household activities. Dividing residents into groups by gender and age, the team facilitated open discussions about the challenges posed by the mini-grid's unreliability, with residents expressing hopes for its prompt restoration. Women in the community emphasized the burdens caused by the lack of power, particularly on household tasks, food preservation, and business continuity.

In addition to the energy assessment, the team introduced clean cooking technologies to Wayokope's women's groups, demonstrating the use of clay and ethanol cookstoves as safer, more sustainable alternatives to firewood and charcoal. The women engaged actively in these sessions, expressing strong interest in the clean stoves' potential health benefits, durability, and cost-effectiveness.

The next day, the engagement continued in Atigagorme, a smaller community of about 200 residents who have experienced more prolonged power challenges, as their mini-grid has been non-functional for three years. In the absence of electricity, residents have had to rely on costly and unsustainable lighting sources like kerosene lamps and generators. The representatives spoke with households, learning from community members, particularly women, about the health risks tied to traditional cooking fuels—issues that affect their fish-smoking businesses. Following these discussions, the team trained the community on the health and environmental benefits of using clean cookstoves, which were well received.

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Through media coverage with local leaders and residents, the highlighted how the mini-grid systems have previously boosted economic activities and improved the quality of life in these communities. However, the recent power outages have strained the progress made, leaving residents eager for the system's maintenance and reliability. This engagement emphasized the critical need for dependable electricity and cleaner cooking solutions to foster sustainable development and support the well-being of Ghana's underserved rural areas.



Youth Empowered in Sustainable Farming Techniques at Agroecology Training



On 19th & 20th July SYND, hosted an impactful two-day training workshop on agroecology at the AgricTech Institute in Nsawam, aiming to equip young farmers with sustainable farming techniques. The training, held in collaboration with the Institute of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Solutions (ISEES), introduced participants to organic farming practices, including pesticide, organic fertilizer, and weedicide production, as well as alternative livelihood skills like beekeeping, soap making, and mushroom farming.

The workshop kicked off with a welcome from George Atta Quainoo, Director of ISEES, who emphasized the importance of practical skills in supporting sustainable livelihoods. Dr. Kodimah Siita from CORD Ghana delivered a key presentation on agroecology, challenging young farmers to adopt sustainable methods that prioritize food quality over yield. Dr. Siita advocated for youth engagement in agroecology to lead a shift toward organic practices.

On the first day, participants learned to create organic manure using local materials and practiced making natural pesticides from garlic, neem leaves, and pepper. Day two introduced them to alternative livelihood options, with hands-on sessions on beekeeping, soap making, and mushroom cultivation. Nicola Williams led a session on identifying agricultural risks and opportunities, stressing the importance of strategic planning and documentation for success in agribusiness.

The training concluded with closing remarks from Sarfoh Danquah, co-lead of the Youth and Farmers in Agroecology Project, who announced the creation of a WhatsApp platform to connect participants and facilitate market opportunities. Participants received certificates recognizing their efforts and newly acquired skills, ready to apply their knowledge in transforming their communities through sustainable agriculture.

Educating Learners Through Game-Based Learning



On July 5th, 2024, the C4C Action Hub of High Speed Schools Limited hosted an engaging peer-to-peer learning session utilizing game-based learning. This innovative approach was designed to educate students on crucial environmental topics, including sustainability, climate change, biodiversity conservation, and overall environmental stewardship.

The session was a resounding success, attracting 120 enthusiastic learners. The event's interactive format allowed students to immerse themselves in the material, making the learning process both enjoyable and impactful. Participants engaged in various games and activities that illustrated practical steps they could take to protect the environment in their daily lives.

Through this game-based approach, students not only gained valuable knowledge but also developed a deeper appreciation for the importance of environmental conservation. The session fostered a sense of responsibility and empowerment among the learners, equipping them with the tools and motivation to contribute to a more sustainable future.

This event exemplifies High Speed Schools Limited's commitment to innovative educational strategies that inspire and empower the next generation to become proactive stewards of the environment.



SYND Embarks on a Monitoring of Upcoming Kumasi Urban Mobility and Accessibility Project (KUMAP)



The Kumasi Urban Mobility and Accessibility Project (KUMAP), a \$440 million initiative funded by the World Bank, aims to revolutionize transportation along the Ejisu to Atwima Nwabiagya South corridor. KUMAP's goals include improving accessibility with electric buses, reducing emissions, and modernizing infrastructure across five districts. However, a recent report by the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) highlights limited public awareness of the project and mixed reactions from community members.

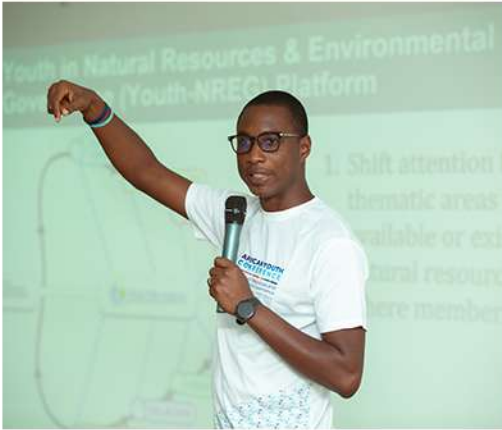
SYND's town hall meetings in Ayigya and Tanoso revealed a concerning lack of awareness, with only a few out of 120 participants familiar with KUMAP. In Ayigya, attendees were largely opposed, fearing displacement, increased traffic congestion, and limited compensation options. Many expressed skepticism, referencing a failed electric bus program in Accra and noting the difficulty of securing new land for relocated businesses and residents.

Conversely, Tanoso residents showed conditional support, emphasizing the importance of fair compensation and strong environmental measures. Business owners raised concerns about how road expansion could impact water and power infrastructure, while other participants requested protections for local waterways and a proactive approach to minimizing construction-related disruptions.

The SYND report underscores the need for improved stakeholder engagement to address community concerns. They recommend that government agencies enhance outreach efforts, develop fair compensation packages, and incorporate climate resilience into KUMAP's design. With robust community dialogue, the project has the potential to successfully advance Kumasi's urban transportation and sustainability goals.



Youth-NREG Platform Revamps to Boost Youth Involvement in Environmental Governance



On July 30, 2024, the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) Platform gathered young leaders at the Crystal Palm Hotel in Tesano for a revamping session aimed at strengthening youth-led contributions to natural resource management across Ghana. Hosted by the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), the event engaged over 200 members in dynamic presentations, discussions, and group activities to align the platform's goals with region-specific environmental needs.

The session opened with remarks from Justina Amoah, focal lead of Youth-NREG, who called for a shift from traditional capacity-building workshops to practical, action-driven initiatives. She encouraged participants to draw on past training to engage in local environmental stewardship. Keynote speaker Chibeze Ezekiel, Chair of the Youth-NREG Platform, highlighted the platform's achievements and shared plans to expand its reach through new initiatives, including a Technical Working Group and Environmental Campaigners.

Dividing into regional groups, participants discussed natural resources and dominant industries within their zones, exploring innovative ways for young people to take active roles in local resource governance. The group presentations underscored the value of youth engagement in creating sustainable, region-specific solutions to environmental challenges.

As a next step, Youth-NREG announced plans to introduce the Indaba Series, periodic workshops, and strengthen the platform's Technical Working Group to sustain the momentum. This revamped approach aims to keep youth voices at the forefront of Ghana's environmental governance, paving the way for a future of sustainable development and active youth participation.





AUG
UST

Youth-NREG embarks on Student outreach in UMAT



The Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG), supported by the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), recently held an impactful educational outreach at the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT) on August 3, 2024. With a focus on empowering youth to shape the future of natural resources and environmental governance, the event brought together 300 students from diverse disciplines to engage in dialogue and innovation. The theme, "Empowering the Youth in Shaping the Future of Natural Resources and Environmental Governance through Innovation from UMaT," underscored the importance of youth involvement in sustainable development.

The event highlighted UMaT students' creativity and innovation through an exhibition showcasing solutions in sustainable energy, emergency response software, and climate action tools. These innovative projects offered attendees a platform to learn from the creators and explore collaborative possibilities. The outreach also featured a presentation by Justina Amoah, lead for the Youth-NREG platform, who shared SYND's initiatives in policy and community-level advocacy, inspiring the audience with examples of successful green businesses launched by young entrepreneurs.

Rev. Father Vincent Takoe from the Guidance and Counselling Unit delivered a keynote on career pathways, encouraging students to align their passions with impactful careers. A panel discussion, led by experts in the renewable energy sector, provided insights into building successful careers within the natural resources sector, emphasizing the need for innovation, education, and teamwork to drive sustainable progress.

The outreach concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Isaac Osei, who called on students to turn insights into action and harness the power of technology and collaboration. His message underscored the importance of youth in advancing environmental stewardship, with participants leaving the event inspired and ready to make a difference in their communities and beyond.





**SEPT
EMBER**

Empowering Young Leaders for Climate Action in Ho



On September 5, 2024, an impactful capacity-building workshop on climate action convened in Ho, organized by the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) in partnership with the Youth Alliance for Sustainability. This training, part of the "Youth in Climate Action at the Local Level" initiative, aimed to empower young leaders—including Assembly Members, Unit Committee members, students, and youth groups—to actively participate in climate governance within local communities. The initiative seeks to annually train 30 young people to engage meaningfully in climate action at the local governance level.

The workshop opened with inspiring remarks from prominent local leaders, including the Presiding Member of the Ho Municipal Assembly, the Director of the National Youth Authority in Ho, and Togbe Kludzehe IV (Afetorfia). They highlighted the urgent need for youth-led climate solutions and emphasized the role of local governance in fostering sustainable development.

Project Lead Isabel Andam presented on the pressing impacts of climate change, urging young Ghanaians to take proactive roles in their communities. She underscored the value of research, continuous learning, and advocacy in driving community-based climate action. Isabel's message resonated with participants, as she encouraged them to adopt sustainable practices and leverage their influence to shape local climate policies.

The District Planning Officer from the Ho Municipal Assembly provided an in-depth session on Ghana's local governance structures, offering insights into Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs) and the local budgeting process. By understanding how policies are crafted and implemented at the district level, participants were equipped to actively contribute to climate-related decision-making within their communities.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in interactive group discussions to identify climate challenges within the municipality and brainstorm practical solutions. This collaborative session encouraged critical thinking and cooperation, enabling young leaders to develop actionable strategies to address local climate issues.



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Empowering Young Leaders for Climate Action in Ho



The event concluded with a powerful presentation on social accountability by Joshua Tetteh Ayayi, founder of the Youth Alliance for Sustainability. Joshua emphasized the importance of monitoring climate-related initiatives and holding local authorities accountable for delivering on their commitments. He inspired participants to play a watchdog role in ensuring promised climate actions materialize at the grassroots level.

This workshop marks a significant step in strengthening the capacity of young leaders in Ho to engage in climate governance. The SYND and Youth Alliance for Sustainability look forward to seeing these empowered youth drive transformative climate action within their communities, fostering a resilient and sustainable future for Ghana.



Community-Driven Mangrove Restoration in Wasakuse Yields Positive Impact



The Wasakuse Mangrove Restoration Project, a community-led initiative in Ada, Ghana, is making a significant impact on local livelihoods and the environment. On September 18–19, 2024, the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, conducted an in-depth community engagement to assess the social, economic, and environmental effects of this restoration project.

This engagement, held in the nearby fishing community of Azizmya, brought together community members, local officials, and project leaders. Mr. Ernest Apenkrah from the Forestry Commission underscored the essential role of mangrove ecosystems in climate change resilience, while Ms. Gifty Agbenyefia of SYND emphasized the project's commitment to biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods.

Community members shared that the mangroves act as natural windbreaks, reduce flooding, and improve air quality. Young people are actively involved, monitoring forest health, preventing illegal logging, and educating others on mangrove conservation.

Economically, the project has provided alternative livelihoods, such as using mangrove wood for fish smoking and construction, and enhanced fish populations, particularly during the rainy season. Community members have called for additional support, including waste disposal systems and clean cooking alternatives to ensure sustainable use of mangrove resources.

Environmental benefits include a reduction in local flooding, an increase in fish species, and a cooler microclimate. Mangroves are helping absorb CO₂, serving as natural barriers against storms and providing shade.

The project is seen as a model for sustainable coastal development, with community leaders pledging continued support. They have requested assistance for further restoration efforts, local health facilities, and infrastructure to bolster both environmental and public health.

With ongoing support, the Wasakuse Mangrove Restoration Project promises to remain a beacon of resilience, conservation, and sustainable development in Ada's coastal communities.

Empowering Young Voices: C4C Launches Action Hub at High Speed Schools limited.



In September, High Speed Schools Limited inaugurated the C4C Action Hub, setting a vibrant tone for the academic year. Held on September 20, the inception meeting welcomed returning students and introduced new recruits to the C4C program's core objectives. This session aimed to orient students to C4C's mission and build a community committed to climate change awareness and action.

Following the meeting, students kicked off with rehearsals on September 27, focusing on climate-themed drama and choreography. These activities are designed to empower students to express climate change and sustainability issues creatively. Through performance, students are learning to be advocates, using their talents to engage peers and audiences on environmental challenges.

C4C remains dedicated to nurturing young climate advocates by integrating art and education. The program's latest activities underscore its commitment to fostering a generation that not only understands climate issues but also actively participates in solutions through advocacy and creative expression.





**OCT
OBER**

Youth Take the Lead: Pre-COP29 National Youth Summit



On Wednesday, October 2nd, the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) hosted the Pre-COP29 National Youth Summit, uniting 200 passionate young climate advocates from across Ghana to chart a bold course toward a more sustainable and equitable Africa.

The summit served as a powerful platform for young leaders to shape Africa's priorities ahead of COP29. In his opening remarks, SYND Vice Executive Coordinator Solomon Yamoah called on youth to rise to the moment. "We are not just the leaders of tomorrow—we are the catalysts of today. The future of our continent depends on what we do now."

Central to the day was a thought-provoking panel led by Mrs. Patience Dampsey and Madam Victoria Owusu-Tawiah, who emphasized the urgency of addressing clean air, strengthening adaptation efforts, and enforcing climate-related laws. "We can't speak of development without environmental justice," one panelist declared. "It's time for Africa to prioritize clean air and climate resilience as non-negotiables."

Breakout sessions gave participants the opportunity to dig deeper into thematic areas such as climate finance (NCQG), the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and Movement Building & Reparations. Facilitators including Patience Agyekum, Sarfoh Danquah Jacob, and Solomon Yamoah pushed for accessible and inclusive climate funding mechanisms and stressed the importance of linking climate reparations to historical and structural justice.

Throughout the day, solidarity messages poured in from the wider African climate movement. The Africa Climate Reality Project praised the summit as 'a beacon of youth-driven climate leadership,' affirming that young people are essential in creating a just and resilient future. Power Shift Africa echoed this, with a stark warning: 'If we don't act now, we risk injustice to ourselves. We must demand stronger action on adaptation, agriculture, and climate finance—now.'

As the summit drew to a close, experienced youth delegates shared insights from previous COPs, offering guidance on how young Africans can meaningfully participate in global climate negotiations. Their reflections served not only as inspiration, but as a strategic guide for first-time participants preparing to raise their voices at COP29.

Young Green Entrepreneurs Forum (YGEF 2024) Drives Sustainable Business Practices and Innovation in Ghana



The Young Green Entrepreneurs Forum (YGEF) 2024, held on November 29th, brought together over 300 dynamic young leaders, experts, and innovators committed to sustainable business practices. The forum opened with an inspiring address from Mrs. Selina Zefo Kere, SYND Board Member, who emphasized the role of youth in driving environmental and economic change. This was followed by insightful presentations from industry experts such as Divine Asare Tenkorang, ESG Officer at ADB, who urged young entrepreneurs to embrace the green and blue economy. Ms. Gonaya Sethori from AfCFTA also spoke about the trade agreement's impact on reducing costs for African entrepreneurs and supporting youth and women in trade.

The forum's panel discussions on "Building a Bankable Green Future" and "Empowering the Green Generation" provided valuable knowledge on funding and developing green startups. Keynotes from industry leaders like John Appiah, President of Africa Chamber for Youth Development, and Maybel Acquaye from ACEP, highlighted the importance of credibility and strong financial management in securing funding. Anita Ofori from Absa Bank shared opportunities for youth-led businesses, including collateral-free loans and capacity-building programs. Meanwhile, youth panelists like Andrews Akoto Addo of Reach for Change and Eunice Maweuna Kloe of Bidigreen Ltd stressed the need for collaboration and sustainable sourcing to scale businesses.

A key feature of the forum was the Green Market Zone exhibition, where young green entrepreneurs showcased innovative eco-friendly products. This platform allowed businesses to connect with new customers and expand their market reach. The event wrapped up with a reaffirmation of the commitment to nurturing green businesses and creating a more sustainable future, with SYND continuing its efforts to empower young people in shaping the future of entrepreneurship in Ghana and beyond.

Ghana Energy Transition Consortium Dialogue with CSOs



The Ghana Energy Transition Consortium (GETC), convened by the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), organized an engaging dialogue session with CSOs dedicated to advancing energy transition efforts in Ghana.

Ahead of the December 7th elections, the meeting aimed to gather crucial inputs from CSOs to analyze political parties' manifestos, focusing on regulations, financing, job creation, and value addition in the energy sector.

We presented insights on job creation, specifically emphasizing the importance of nurturing Young Green Entrepreneurship to foster green jobs that not only reduce emissions but also support Ghana's climate ambitions. The discussion highlighted that green entrepreneurship is a powerful catalyst for building a net-zero workforce and achieving the sustainable environment Ghana envisions.

GETC, made up of Gower Street grantees in Ghana, includes key organizations like CEDA, Wacam, CSPOG, Kasa Initiative Ghana, Greenfaith, and SYND, all committed to influencing energy transition policies for a better future.



Youth-NREG Academy Inception Meeting Launches First Cohort of Climate Leaders



On Wednesday, October 30th, 2024, the Youth-NREG platform officially kicked off its Youth-NREG Academy with an inception meeting that welcomed its first-ever cohort. 17 dynamic young individuals were selected to participate in this initiative, each bringing passion and a commitment to champion climate action within their communities. The meeting marked the beginning of what promises to be a transformative journey toward building youth capacity in natural resources and environmental governance.

The session provided an opportunity for members to engage with platform leadership and one another, setting the tone for the months ahead. The interactive gathering laid out the Academy's goals, expectations, and vision, emphasizing grassroots action as a core pillar. Members were also encouraged to collaborate, learn from one another, and use this platform to amplify their impact.

In his address, Chibeze Ezekiel, Executive Coordinator of Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), encouraged the cohort to begin with small, manageable actions in their communities. He emphasized that tackling local issues with available resources can serve as a launchpad for deeper engagement in broader climate and environmental initiatives. His words inspired the group to think practically and act boldly as emerging leaders.





NOVEMBER

Energy Efficiency Awareness in Tamale and Pong



On 4th November 2024, we partnered with the team from CORD Ghana to bring energy efficiency awareness to the heart of Tamale and Pong in the Northern Region! Through door-to-door visits and community gatherings, we engaged residents of all ages on the benefits of using Ghana Energy Commission's star-rated appliances to save energy and reduce costs.

This hands-on outreach is part of our commitment to Ghana's energy transition agenda, empowering communities with practical knowledge to shape a sustainable future. Our interactions revealed a strong community readiness to follow energy guidelines to prevent overspending on electricity.

We also gathered valuable insights! Abubakari, an electrician in the community, recommended expanding the program to include wiring education, as substandard wiring can contribute to excessive electricity consumption.



Exploring Upcycling with Trashy Beauties



On Friday, November 15th, the passionate 60 young champions of the Children 4 Climate Action hub at High Speed Schools Limited took an educational trip to Trashy Beauties Company! The students explored the magic of upcycling, discovering how plastic waste transforms into stunning flower vases, bags, tables, sofas, and more. This hands-on experience taught them the power of reduce, reuse, recycle in fighting plastic pollution.

Now armed with practical knowledge and eco-friendly inspiration, these young environmentalists are ready to lead the charge for a greener future!

Young Green Entrepreneurs Sharpen Their Skills



On Friday, November 29th, we hosted a dynamic Knowledge Session for Green Businesses, aimed at equipping young entrepreneurs with essential skills in Pitching and Branding. Wilma Tachie-Menson of NotePad Consult led an engaging session on crafting and communicating a compelling green business brand, emphasizing authenticity and storytelling as powerful tools for standing out in a competitive market.

Samuel Swanzy-Baffoe provided practical training on effective pitching, guiding participants to present their ideas with confidence and clarity. A hands-on simulation exercise allowed entrepreneurs to apply their skills in real-world scenarios, preparing them to seize funding and collaboration opportunities.

This session is part of our commitment to empowering green businesses to thrive while championing sustainability.



Reflecting, Learning, and Looking Ahead: Highlights from Our 2024 Annual General Meeting



The 2024 Annual General Meeting, held on November 26th and 27th, brought together members of the Youth-NREG platform to reflect on the year's milestones and prepare for the journey ahead. Day 1 opened with powerful reflections and lessons from across the platform, highlighting impactful activities such as community outreaches, campus engagements, and policy campaigns. With over 3,000 individuals reached through grassroots efforts and 10,000 more engaged online and in-person through campaigns like #StopGalamseyNow and webinars on pressing issues like the Emissions Levy Act, the day was packed with inspiration and a renewed sense of purpose. The operational arms of the platform—Students Platform, Environmental Campaigners, Technical Working Group, and Youth-NREG Academy—also presented their annual updates, demonstrating a year of passion-driven impact.

Moderated by Joshua Ayayi, an advocate for Ghana's Oxygen City, the energy and enthusiasm of Day 1 set the tone for an equally engaging second day. The final day of the AGM featured a policy-focused agenda, starting with a technical presentation on the proposed policies of various political parties ahead of the 2024 elections. This laid the groundwork for a lively policy dialogue with Michael Sarfo Kantanka from the Movement for Change, where members directly interrogated and assessed the party's plans for youth and environmental governance.

Wrapping up, a stimulating panel discussion featuring Jennifer Moffat (BudgIT Ghana), Daniel Adjei (Natural Resource Governance Institute), and Sika Akpalu (CEDA) explored the real-world implications of these political proposals across the natural resources and environmental governance sectors. The AGM concluded on a high note, equipping members with insights and strategies to continue their advocacy and strengthen youth involvement in shaping a more sustainable future.



The image features a dark, atmospheric background of a dense forest with thick mist or fog. The trees are silhouetted against a slightly lighter, hazy sky. Overlaid on this background is the word "DECEMBER" in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are not solid white but have a thin white outline, giving them a three-dimensional or cut-out appearance. The text is centered horizontally and occupies the middle portion of the frame.

DECEMBER

Closing the Year with Purpose: Strategy Session for 2025



On December 20th, 2024, the Youth-NREG platform hosted a final strategy session to wrap up the year with renewed focus and direction. Bringing together its four operational arms—Youth-NREG Academy, Technical Working Group, Leaders of Students Platform, and Environmental Campaigners—the session served as both a reflection and a forward-looking exercise. It provided space to align visions, build synergy, and reinforce the commitment to youth-led action in the natural resources and environmental governance space.

Participants engaged in group sessions to brainstorm and fine-tune strategies for the upcoming year, focusing on key activities and campaigns. These interactive sessions culminated in presentations, highlighting innovative ideas and a collective drive to scale up impact in 2025. The collaborative spirit displayed during the session underscored the platform's strength: youth working together with purpose and passion.

A significant highlight of the day was the official unveiling of Skorch Earth, a dedicated news and information platform created to amplify climate and environmental issues in Ghana. With a focus on mainstreaming climate narratives, the website aims to support advocacy efforts by providing timely and relevant content. Participants were encouraged to explore [www.skorchearth.com](<http://www.skorchearth.com>) and follow Skorch Earth on social media to stay informed and engaged.



Climate & Christmas: A Festive Learning Event



On 21st December, we brought the festive cheer and climate advocacy together for a playful learning event—Climate & Christmas! The event was an incredible opportunity to engage over 200 children, parents, and young people in intergenerational climate action. By tapping into the limitless potential of children, we're building a sustainable future fit for humanity!

The day was packed with amazing performances: High Speed Schools Limited captivated us with a creative play on climate education.

Wisdom Ways Academy staged a powerful drama calling for an end to **galamsey** to protect our forests and water bodies.

Pupils from SATOC wowed us with a beautifully choreographed performance to inspiring tunes.

There was also a splash of creativity with family painting sessions, innovative showcases, and tons of fun activities for everyone!

And guess what? Santa made a special appearance, spreading joy and encouraging kids to celebrate sustainably this Christmas.

We're thrilled by the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment from all participants. Together, we're nurturing the next generation of climate champions!





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