



#SAClimateChangeChamps: Youth spark innovation towards a cleaner future

By Renewable Energy Challenge (REC) reporters

(Romario Cloete, Esethu Msengi, Lathitha Magidela, Zintle Nosikeleza)

Renewable Energy Challenge Background

The 2023 Renewable Energy Challenge (REC) is a competition open to Grade 9 - 11 learners at Climate Club host schools in the Eastern, Northern and Western Cape, as part of the SA Climate Change Champs project that aims to inspire learners to imagine how renewable energy can be used to impact their communities. The project focuses on empowering the youth through enabling constructive and collaborative engagement by giving them accessible platforms to amplify their voices on topics of climate change and renewable energy.

WINNERS

#1 Green Queens from St. Anna Private School from Springbok (Northern Cape), won the 2023 REC national final hosted at the Green Hub stage at Enlit Africa Conference.



In the above picture: Green Queens of St. Anna Private school from Springbok, Northern Cape are crowned winners of the 2023 Renewable Energy Challenges. (In the back from left to right: Cecelia Kok (FNF Africa), Premier Alan Winde, and Ariane Labat (EU Delegation to SA)

#2 Change-makers from Walmer High School from Gqeberha (Eastern Cape) finished in second place.



In the above picture: Change-makers representing Walmer High School from Gqeberha, Eastern Cape take the stage for the awards ceremony as they finish in second place (In the back from left to right: Cecelia Kok (FNF Africa), Western Cape Premier Alan Winde, Ariane Labat (EU Delegation to SA), and Noma Qase (DMRE).

#3 Friendly Footprints from St. Anna Private School from Springbok (Northern Cape) finished in third place.



In the above picture: Friendly Footprints representing St. Anna Private School from Springbok, Northern Cape finish in third place (In the back from left to right: Cecelia Kok (FNF Africa), Western Cape Premier Alan Winde, Ariane Labat (EU Delegation to SA), and Noma Qase (DMRE).

REC REPORTERS: Green Voices

"As Solar-Glow, our project aims at helping our community to use less harmful ways to prepare food during load shedding. My takeaway is that we need to make a greener planet because if we use our knowledge and any ability, we have to contribute to making a more pollution-free community.

Overall, this was a very enjoyable experience, I learned a lot about the actual impact of global warming and I look forward to many more opportunities like this. While at the Cape Town International Convention Centre we saw projects represented by different countries such as wind and solar power showcased by China and Italy." - Zintle Nosikeleza, Walmer High School (Eastern Cape)



In the above picture: Zintle (on the mic), and her group Solar Glow, as they take the Green Hub stage at Enlit Africa Conference to present their project to the judging panel



In the above picture: Solar Glow receiving their certificates for finishing as regional finalists in the competition (pictured from left to right: Lindiwe Johnson, Cecelia Kok, and Brian Mnuakwa)

"This trip served as an opportunity to meet other young people from different regions; I got to meet Karabo and Amir from the Western Cape, Bahle from the Eastern Cape, and Nthabeleng from Upington at our interactive session. We journeyed to SARETEC where we learned that they too, or South Africa, also built an electric car that was named Joule.

On our walkabout at the CTICC I was able to learn more about other innovations and projects from countries who have experienced similar challenges such as South Africa. I have a better understanding of the importance of renewable energy. Our group unfortunately did not win but we had so much fun with one another as peers." - Lathitha Magidela, St. Anna Private School (Northern Cape)



In the above picture: Lathitha Magidela and Nicole Bitterbos of Eco-warriors, representing St. Anna Private School from Springbok, Northern Cape, as they visit SARETEC.



In the above picture: Lathitha, and her group, Eco-warriors with their technical model on the Green Hub stage at Enlit Africa Conference.

"We visited SARETEC where we learned that they too, or South Africa, also built an electric car that was named Joule. I have a better understanding of the importance of renewable energy." - Lathitha Magidela

"I was encouraged by the Premier of the Western Cape, Alan Winde, when he said he was glad to see the involvement of South Africans in the energy field. This was a very enjoyable experience, I learned a lot about the actual impact of global warming." - Zintle Nosikeleza

What's coming?

Winter Climate Clubs Media Workshop

The Winter Climate Clubs Media Workshop is a **two-day** workshop through which learners will be trained on journalistic and media skills.

27 & 28 JUNE 2023 - Western Cape / 04 & 05 JULY 2023 - Northern Cape / 11 & 12 JULY 2023 - Eastern Cape

Special Thanks to Lindiwe Johnson - Project Manager

For more information, please contact **Thula Zondi** at thula@greencape.co.za

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