

SAVING OUR PLANET: THE VALUE OF THE YOUTH VOICE

Nichelle Kraukam, Emil Weder High School (Gr 9)

Let young voices soar: speak up, speak out and let the world hear our truth.

Youth advocates have been at the forefront of movements advocating for climate change policies, racial justice, gender inequality, and other socio-economic, environmental, and political issues. Their passion, resilience, and determination can inspire positive change and challenge the status quo.

During the winter holidays, Emil Weder High School was one of the three high schools to participate in a two-day media workshop as part of the SA Climate Change Champs project, in Greyton at the Eco Lodge.

Through the SA Climate Change Champs project, which is part of the climate club that introduces various initiatives and programs aiming to equip young individuals with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to address climate change challenges and create positive change. Not only did participants learn about climate change, but also renewable energy, focusing on the important factors and considerations which are relevant to the community.

The importance of the youth voice in the context of climate change is evident because climate change has a long-term impact on a global scale with long-lasting consequences for future generations. Innovative ideas often bring fresh perspectives and solutions to the table. Young people should be at the frontline advocating for sustainability, raising awareness about the urgency of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, and transitioning to renewable energy. The interconnectedness of youth creates a voice that transcends borders and connects young people from different countries and cultures. This ensures that diverse perspectives and experiences are considered in climate change and renewable energy discussions.

In the view of many, the youth voice holds immense significance in shaping the present and future of society. Young individuals possess unique perspectives and ideas and a different view on the challenges faced. Their voices bring diversity, innovation, and a sense of urgency to the table. In today's rapidly evolving world, the youth voice serves as a catalyst for change, challenging outdated norms, questioning established systems, and advocating for progress. By actively engaging with young people and valuing their opinions, a more inclusive and dynamic society can be fostered.



Hyden Philander (Emil Weder High School),
Nichelle Krauman (Emil Weder High School),
Esonasipho Diweti (Khanyolwethu Secondary School)



Winter Climate Clubs Media Workshop with pupils from Emil Weder and Khanyolwethu High School.

It is crucial to provide platforms and opportunities for young people to express their opinions and be actively involved in shaping communities. By doing so, not only is the youth empowered but a more inclusive and democratic society is also created. Involving experienced adults brings the benefits of experience, support, inter-generational collaboration, and sustainable change. It creates the platform for meaningful dialogue, mentorship, and collective action, ultimately leading to a more inclusive and prosperous society for all.

Let the energy, passion, and ideas of the youth be embraced. Let them be empowered and allowed to be the change-makers they aspire to be.

This climate change initiative is co-funded by the European Union, implemented in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, presented by GreenCape and supported by skills development partner WESSA. For more information on the project, please contact: Thula Zondi/Tyrese Rooi, Communications Officers—communications@greencape.co.za

Background Information

GreenCape, leading the delivery of the SA Climate Change Champs, as part of the 'Active Climate Change Citizenship for a Just Transition in South Africa' initiative aims to enable proactive, constructive and collaborative engagement by communities, women and youth in climate mitigation and adaptation.

As the youth is a core target group of the initiative, the SA Climate Change Champs will be visiting several high schools across the Eastern, Northern and Western Cape, to host the Renewable Energy Challenge, establish Climate Clubs, conduct educational and awareness raising workshops and conduct study tours.

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*Issued by: Tyrese Rooi, Communications officer
On behalf of GreenCape*

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