



**GREEN
YOUTH
INDABA**

A Decade of Action: Driving Sustainable Innovation

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GYI Prelude Activities



16 - 20 June 2025 | Durban, KwaZulu-Natal

WORKSHOPS PROSPECTUS



Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Science, Technology and Innovation
Trade, Industry and Competition



Polyco

Standard Bank

STANLIB



LGSETA

W.RSETA

FoodBev
Manufacturing SETA

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South African National Accreditation System



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About Green Youth Network

The Green Youth Network is a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing youth interests and fostering sustainable skills development within the green economy. Our mission also includes promoting comprehensive education on environmental conservation issues in South Africa. Established as a Non-Profit Company and Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) in 2014, we have been actively engaged in this endeavour ever since.

Our flagship event, the Annual Green Youth Indaba, is South Africa's largest greening summit organised by youth for youth. Through this event, we have successfully built a network of over 10,000 young leaders from all corners of South Africa. Held in June to coincide with Youth Month celebrations, the Indaba brings together over 1,000 young environmental leaders and green innovators.

Aligned with our goals, we recognise the significance of economic recovery, job creation, a sustainable skills revolution, and fostering innovation. As one of the 196 parties that signed the Paris Agreement, the Republic of South Africa is committed to combating climate change and adapting to its effects. Together, we strive towards a greener and more sustainable future.

For two days, participants meet for intensive discussions, and networking, all aimed at generating solutions to global environmental challenges. Importantly, the conference also wishes to combat youth unemployment and address the lack of skills development, particularly in the context of opportunities presented by a just transition.

Message from the CEO, Sanele Zulu



Dear Stakeholders, Partners, and Changemakers,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 10th Annual Green Youth Indaba, taking place in the vibrant city of Durban from 19–20 June 2025 at the Durban ICC, under the theme A Decade of Impact: Driving Sustainable Innovation.

As we gather to commemorate this milestone during Youth Month, we reflect with pride on a journey that has spanned ten years of green leadership, innovation, and action. What began as a vision to give young people a seat at the sustainability table has grown into a national platform that has empowered over 26,000 youth, supported more than 1,140 green SMEs, and reached upwards of 100,000 learners through education and outreach.

This year, we are not only celebrating our past—we are preparing for the future. With climate change accelerating and our natural resources under pressure, the Indaba presents a critical opportunity to galvanize collective efforts across generations and sectors. Our theme calls on all of us—government, private sector, civil society, and youth—to strengthen our commitment to sustainable development and champion the innovations that will define the next decade.

Through our scheduled prelude activities from 16–18 June—including masterclasses, clean-ups, the Green Careers Expo, and the Green Innovators Pre-Pitch—we are building a whole week of meaningful learning and impact. These sessions are designed not only to equip young people with the tools they need to lead, but to connect them with the people and platforms that can help bring their ideas to life.

These prelude activities will focus on the following pillars:



Water Conservation and Efficiency



Environmental Conservation and Protection



Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



Sustainable Mobility and Responsible Tourism



Green Buildings



Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation



Waste Beneficiation and Management

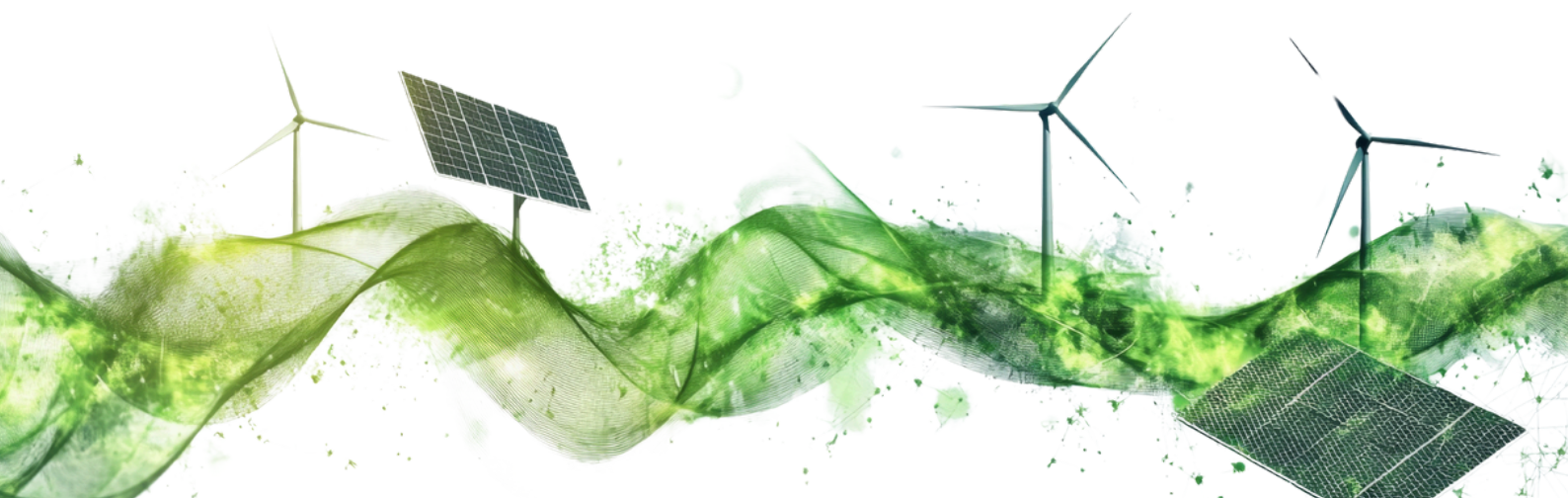
To all our partners, speakers, exhibitors, and delegates: thank you for your continued support. Your commitment fuels this movement. As we step into this next chapter, may we continue to co-create an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future, led boldly by the youth of South Africa.

Here's to a decade of impact—and the decades to come.

Yours in Sustainability,

Sanele Zulu

Chief Executive Officer
Green Youth Network



The Beach Clean Up Campaign



Held on youth day, commemorated annually on 16th of June, the beach clean-up serves as a reminder to keep the planet clean and go green! As part of the prelude activities ahead of the Green Youth Indaba Conference, the beach clean-up kicks us off into the GYI week.

Taking place at the Blue Lagoon Beach, we will be joined by young volunteers, community leaders, as well as other people who are passionate about combating climate change and raise awareness of the effects of pollution.



16 JUNE 2025 |

BLUE LAGOON BEACH
Meet up point: Laguna Lawn

| 07H30 - 13H00

NB: Please wear safe comfortable shoes. A sunhat and a branded t-shirts will be provided upon arrival.



The Green Youth Careers Expo



The Green Youth Careers Expo targets learners in grade 9-12 from 6 schools in surrounding areas around KwaZulu-Natal, namely: Ulovu secondary school, Phezulu high school, Siyabonga secondary school, Intakemazolo secondary school, Vumandaba Secondary school and Sithengile secondary school. This session aims to expose them to the various careers that exists in the green economy such as the Environmental scientists, Water Conservation Scientists and Air Quality Management.



17 JUNE 2025 |

UKZN WESTVILLE CAMPUS, LECTURE
THEATRE COMPLEX, LECTURE ROOM 1

| 08H00 – 14H00

For more queries or further clarifications, please contact: Lihle Ngwane at lihle@tosaca.co.za or +2772 176 8517



Wastrepneur Masterclass



On Tuesday, June 17, the Green Youth Network will host a Wastrepneur Masterclass, targeting 150 young participants. This masterclass tackles South Africa's staggering waste crisis—where about 122 million tonnes of waste are generated each year, and only 10% is recycled, with the remaining 90% ending up in landfills or illegal dumps (SA People, 2023)

These young participants will gain knowledge on the several types of recycling methods, funding opportunities as well as innovative solutions in waste management, making this Masterclass essential for aspiring eco-entrepreneurs and climate change activists who are ready to tackle pollution while creating sustainable income streams.

The event details are as follows:



17 JUNE 2025 |

**THE STATION, 65 MASABALALA
YENGWA AVE, DURBAN**

| 08H00 – 16H00

For more queries or further clarifications, please contact: Nokwazi Bulose at Nokwazi@tosaca.co.za or +2761 584 4817



Agriculture & Food Security Masterclass



Also taking place on 17 June 2025 at The Station, Durban, the Agriculture & Food Security Masterclass will happen simultaneously with the Wastepreneur masterclass, with another 150 young participants. This session responds to a challenge faced by many South Africans, that 15.3 million people remain food insecure (Stats SA, 2024). With food security being a national priority, this masterclass aims to provide youth and community leaders with climate-smart farming techniques and urban agriculture strategies, directly addressing disruptions in food systems caused by shifting weather patterns.

The event details are as follows:

17 JUNE 2025 |

**THE STATION - 65 MASABALALA
YENGWA AVE, STAMFORD HILL,
DURBAN, 4001**

| 08H00 – 14H00

For more queries or further clarifications, please contact: Nokwazi Bulose at Nokwazi@tosaca.co.za or +2761 584 4817



Water Conservation and Renewable Energy Masterclass



The learning continues Wednesday, 18 June 2025 at the same venue—The Station, Durban—this masterclass addresses two critical pillars of climate resilience: water security and renewable energy. South Africa is a water-scarce country, ranked among the thirty driest in the world, with increasing pressure from droughts, infrastructure failure, and climate change (Stats SA, 2024). Only 64.5% of households have reliable access to clean water, while urban growth continues to strain supply systems (GCIS, 2018).

The Water Conservation Masterclass which will unpack sustainable water usage, alternative water sources, and climate-resilient infrastructure solutions, while the Renewable Energy Masterclass will cover clean energy innovation, energy entrepreneurship, and the growing role of youth in the renewable sector.

The event details are as follows:



**18 JUNE 2025 | THE STATION, 65 MASABALALA
YENGWA AVENUE, STAMFORD HILL, DURBAN | 08H00 – 16H00**

For more queries or further clarifications, please contact: Nokwazi Bulose at Nokwazi@tosaca.co.za or +2761 584 4817



The Green Innovators Pre-Pitch

Returning for its 10th instalment, the Green Innovators' Pitch 10.0 is one of the most anticipated features of the Youth Indaba. This year's pre-pitch event is set to take place on June 18 and will spotlight young changemakers with actionable ideas or businesses across key climate sectors including agriculture, renewable energy, waste beneficiation, green buildings, and water conservation.

From the shortlisted applicants, our team of judges will select the top 5 pitchers, who will pitch at Day 2 of the Indaba and will award the Top 3 green start-ups at an exclusive award ceremony taking place later that evening.

This competition is a launchpad for youth-led environmental solutions, offering participants mentorship, visibility, and the opportunity to connect with funders, development partners, and potential collaborators. Over the years, the platform has accelerated green start-ups, some of which have gone on to secure funding, enter incubators, and create jobs in their communities.

The event details are as follows:



18 JUNE 2025 |

**DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY**

| 08H00 – 16H00

For more queries or further clarifications, please contact: Lesego Mateme at Lesego@tosaca.co.za or +2776 942 5868.





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Blue Lagoon Beach



16 June 2025



07h30 – 13h00

CLEAN
Durban Campaign



07:30–08:30	Arrival & Registration
08:30–08:45	Opening Remarks: Azile Mpukwane, Project Coordinator, Adopt A River & Water Can (Programme Director)
08:45–09:00	Safety Briefing Sibusiso Shange, Chief Executive Officer, Sbumaister Plastic Recycling
09:00 – 09:30	Ice Breaker & Groups Allocations Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Facilitator, Green Youth Network
09:00–12:30	Beach Cleanup Drive & Activations
09:30 – 12:00	Beach Cleanup Drive & Mystery Waste Treasure Hunt
12:00–12:30	Waste Sorting & Mystery Waste Treasure Hunt Winners Announcement
12:30–12:35	Vote of Thanks Dumisile Le Roux, Chief Operations Officer, Green Youth Network
12:35–13:35	Lunch & Departure



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UKZN Westville Campus, Lecture Theatre Complex, Lecture Room 1



17 June 2025



08h00 – 14h00



**GREEN YOUTH
CAREERS EXPO**

08:00 - 08:30

Arrival & Registration

08:30 – 08:35

Opening Address:

Linda Mthembu, Umkhomazi Circuit Manager, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Basic Education – Ugu District

08:30 - 08:45

Message of Support:

Celiwe Mazulu Khanyile, Pinetown Circuit Deputy-Chief Education Specialist (Career Guidance), KwaZulu-Natal Department of Basic Education

08:45 - 09:00

Presentation: *The Future of Green Careers*

Bongiwe Beja Ntsiko, Regional Program Manager Africa, beVisioneers - The Mercedes Benz Fellowship

09:00 - 09:30

Panel Discussion: *The Role of Youth in Green Innovation*

- Phathutshedzo Raphalalani, Air Quality Officer, eThekweni Municipality
- Sanele Vilakazi, Young Water Professional, Umngani Uthukela Water

09:30 – 09:45

Motivational Talk

Bongani Putsoane, Youth Leader & Award-Winning Author, PEG Foundation

09:45 – 10:00

Talk: *Green Innovators Pitch Alumni's Journey*

Nokuphila Gumede, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Field Tech Environmental Solutions

10:00 – 10:30

Science Showcase

University of KwaZulu-Natal

10:30 – 11:00

Panel Discussion: Exploring Green Entrepreneurship, Opportunities & Challenges

Moderated by:

- Azethu Tsengwa, Marketing & Communications Manager, Maths & Science Infinity
- Thozeka Ntlukwane Letuka, Chief Executive Office, Bigstart Training and Development

11:00 – 11:10

Energizer

Bongani Putsoane, Youth Leader & Award-Winning Author, PEG Foundation



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UKZN Westville Campus, Lecture Theatre
Complex, Lecture Room 1



17 June 2025



08h00 – 14h00



**GREEN YOUTH
CAREERS EXPO**

11:10 – 11:40	Talk: Sustainable Agriculture & Food Andrew Van Der Walt, Animal Scientist, Farm Vision
11:40 – 12:00	Talk: Sustainable Energy & Renewable Innovations Nalini Dookie, Provincial Coordinator, Eskom Expo for Young Scientists
12:00 – 12:30	Panel Discussion: Career Opportunities & Study Pathways within the Green Economy Moderated By: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Londeka Mbatha, University of KwaZulu-Natal• Siphe Matomela, Communication Outreach Officer, National Student Financial Aid Scheme• Eshika Naidoo, Customer Services Supervisor, Central Application Office
12:30 – 12:35	Vote of Thanks Green Youth Network
12:35 – 13:35	Exhibitions
13:35 – 14:35	Lunch & Departure



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The Station, 65 Masabalala
Yengwa Ave, Durban



17 June 2025



08h00 – 16h00



08:00 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:15	Opening and Welcome Nokwazi Bulose, Project Coordinator, Green Youth Network
09:15 - 09:30	Message of Support: Linda Nodada, Deputy-Head, Strategic and New Areas of eThekweni Cleansing & Solid Waste Unit
09:30 - 10:00	Presentation: <i>The Future of Waste Innovation</i> Xolani Cele, Senior Engineer, Cleansing & Solid Waste, eThekweni Engineering
10:00 - 10:30	Technical Session 1: <i>From the Ground Up - Community-Driven Business Models in the Waste Sector</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sifiso Gumbi, Director, Urban Surfer Koko Mokena, Project Coordinator, African Reclaimers Organisation Cairly Matthews, Founder and CEO, Waste Me Not Events and Team Up To Clean Up SA Nonhlanhla Mcobo, Spokewoman, South African Waste Pickers Association Fibre Circle
10:30 - 11:00	Talk: <i>Polyco's Support for Wastepreneuers in the Circular Economy</i> Lisl Liedemann, Enterprise Development Manager, Polyco
11:00 - 11:30	Refresher Break
11:30 - 12:00	Talk: <i>Training and Support: Building Profitable and Sustainable Business in Recycling Sector</i> Andile Mndaba, Regional Recycling Officer, Petco
12:00 - 12:30	Address: <i>Skills Development and Funding Opportunities</i> Standard Bank
12:30 - 13:30	Presentation: <i>Developing Green Innovations</i> Dr Jenitha Badul & Anam Ngoma, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and The Environment
14:00 - 14:30	Talk: <i>Waste is a Problem and a Possibility – A Local Story with Youth Solutions</i> Sibusiso Dumisa, Author, Save a Life Nhlanhla Thomas, Author, Team Up To Clean Up
14:30 - 15:00	Youth Showcase: <i>Emerging Wastepreneurs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanele Mbutho, Director, Snezelo Projects Zero Waste Initiative, Durban University of Technology
15:00 - 15:15	Closing Remarks
15:15 - 16:15	Lunch & Departure



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17 June 2025



08h00 – 16h00



AGRICULTURE
& FOOD SECURITY

08:00 - 09:00	Arrival & Registration
09:00 - 09:15	Opening and Welcome Malibongwe Xaba, Acting General Manager & Stakeholder Relations Manager, Green Youth Network
09:15 - 09:30	Message of Support Lungile Dladla, Horticulturist, eThekwini Municipality
09:30 - 10:00	Presentation: Youth in Sustainable Agriculture Dumisani Nhlengethwa, Agribusiness Development Facilitator, eThekwini Municipality
10:00 - 11:00	Panel Discussion: Climate Smart Farming <ul style="list-style-type: none">Judy Stuart, Founder, Future Farmers AssociationThulani Masondo, Extension Specialists, South African Sugarcane Research InstituteAndile Ngcobo, Founder, Sky Harvest and African Valley Consulting
11:00 - 11:30	Refresher Break
11:30 - 12:00	Panel Discussion: Food Security and Urban Farming <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Ntokozo Hlongwane, Managing Director, Farmers MarketGeorge Kgopotse, Ecosystem Builder, Youth Leader and Mentor, African Farmers' Association of South AfricaAndile Mbili, Agribusiness Specialist, Healthier Foods
12:00 - 12:30	Presentation: Developing Green Innovations Dr Jenitha Badul & Anam Ngoma, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and The Environment
12:30 - 13:15	Presentation: Innovations in Composting for Environmental Sustainability and Food Security Dumisani Nhlengethwa, Agribusiness Development Facilitator, eThekwini Municipality



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Yengwa Ave, Durban



17 June 2025



08h00 – 16h00



AGRICULTURE
& FOOD SECURITY

13:15 – 14:15

Panel Discussion: *Youth Access to Land, Markets and Funding*

- Sibonelo Mchunu, Marketing and Communications, Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency
- Kwanele Myeni, Programme Coordinator, South African Association for Youth Clubs

14:15 – 14:45

Youth Agri Innovators: *Show and Tell*

- Luvo Gugwana, Chief Executive Officer, Mail and Guardian Top 200 , Green Arch Innovations

14:45 – 15:00

Closing Remarks

15:00 – 15:30

Lunch & Departure



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The Station, 65 Masabalala Yengwa
Avenue, Stamford Hill, Durban



17 June 2025



08h00 – 16h00



08:00 - 09:00	Arrival and Registration
09:00 - 09:15	Opening and Welcome Nokwazi Bulose, Project Coordinator, Green Youth Network
09:15 - 09:30	Message of Support eThekweni Water
09:30 - 10:00	Presentation: <i>Opportunities for Youth in Water Conservation</i> Xolani Hadebe, Water Use Efficiency Director, Department of Water and Sanitation
10:00 - 10:30	Technical Session 1: <i>Securing South Africa's Water Future – Infrastructure, Innovation & Youth Involvement</i> Tshiamo Legoale, Social Impact Manager, Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority
10:30 - 11:00	Technical Session 2: <i>Strengthening Water and Renewable Energy for Vulnerable Communities in the Face of Climate Change</i> Indrani Hazel Govender, Ecologist, Durban University of Technology
11:00 - 11:30	Refresher Break
11:30 - 12:00	Technical Session 3: <i>Building Climate-Resilient Cities Through Renewable Solutions</i> Smiso Bhengu, Senior Climate Change Scientist, eThekweni Municipality
12:00 - 13:30	Panel Discussion: <i>Inclusive Water and Energy Governance and Youth</i>
13:30 - 14:30	Presentation: <i>Developing Green Innovations</i> Dr Jenitha Badul & Anam Ngoma, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and The Environment
14:30 - 15:00	Youth Water Ambassadors: <i>Experiences and Projects</i> Lifalakhe Mashinini, Alexandra Water Project
15:00 - 15:15	Closing Remarks
15:15 - 16:15	Lunch & Departure

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The Station, 65 Masabalala
Yengwa Ave, Durban



17 June 2025



08h00 – 16h00

Green Innovators Pre-Pitch Session

08:00 – 09:00	Arrival & Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Remarks: <i>Overview of the pitch & prizes</i> Green Youth Network
09:15 – 09:30	Message of Support Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
09:30 – 10:30	Pitch Preparation Workshop: <i>11 Building blocks of pitching</i> Dr. Roche Mamabolo, Facilitator, Lora Centre
10:30 – 11:00	Refresher Break
11:00 – 12:00	Pitch Preparation Workshop: <i>(Continuation)</i> Dr. Roche Mamabolo, Facilitator, Lora Centre
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 – 15:30	Individual Pitch Presentations
15:30 – 16:00	Judges' Deliberation and Feedback
16:00 – 16:20	Top 5 Announcements Dr. Roche Mamabolo, Facilitator, Lora Centre
16:20 – 16:30	Closing Remarks Green Youth Network
16:30 – 17:00	Departure