

WORLD EARTH DAY MEETING REPORT



Theme: Our Power, Our Planet; From Policy
to Action

22 APRIL 2025

Introduction

The World Earth Day 2025 Celebration brought together key stakeholders, including policymakers, environmental experts, young professionals, and passionate advocates, to discuss critical issues related to Nigeria's energy transition, environmental justice, and the role of youth and policy in promoting the adoption of renewable energy. The event was organized by a coalition of CSOs partners: Youpad, Coset, Initiative for Human Rights and Gender Awareness, Trash Monger, and Basic Water Needs.



Welcome Address

The keynote address was delivered by His Excellency Mohammed H. Abdullahi, CON, former Minister of Environment and the founder of the Protect Earth Network. His address underscored the urgent need for an inclusive energy transition that places both people and the planet at its center. He emphasized that the success of renewable energy adoption hinges not only on technological advancements but also on the creation of inclusive policies and an engaged public.

Adoption of Agenda

The opening remarks for the morning session were delivered by Peniel Ibe, a representative from Climate Justice, Creative Culture, and Communities for Peace. He highlighted the importance of grassroots community involvement in shaping policies and advocating for climate justice. His message emphasized that local communities play a pivotal role in the effective implementation of climate solutions, especially in areas like renewable energy adoption.

opening remarks delivered by Peniel Ibe of climate justice, creative culture and communities for peace, highlighting the importance of climate justice and grassroots community involvement.

Program Overview & Key Discussions

The World Earth Day 2025 event offered a series of impactful discussions and sessions designed to engage key stakeholders, including policymakers, environmental experts, youth leaders, and professionals, in shaping Nigeria's energy transition and addressing environmental justice.

The event was divided into several panels, discussions, and practical engagements, focusing on a wide array of issues related to renewable energy adoption, climate justice, and community empowerment.

Below is a more in-depth look at the sessions, with particular focus on Key Takeaways from each discussion:

The Role of Policy in Driving the Use of Renewable Energy

This panel focused on the strategic role of government policies in driving the transition toward renewable energy in Nigeria. Panelists explored how effective policies can create an environment conducive to renewable energy adoption, addressing challenges related to infrastructure, workforce capacity, and decentralized energy solutions.

Panelists:

- Abdullahi Murtala (Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience, OSPRE)
- David Arinze (Off-grid Energy)
- Tengi Koli (Natural Resources Governance)

key Takeaways

- **Strategic Policy Implementation:** The panel emphasized the need to align energy policies with sustainable development goals, advocating for long-term, consistent frameworks that promote investment in renewable energy. Recognizing that the energy transition is gradual, they called for clear roadmaps and ongoing reviews.
- **Decentralization of Energy Resources:** The discussion highlighted the necessity of decentralized energy solutions, like off-grid and mini-grid systems, to bridge energy access gaps in rural and underserved urban areas. Decentralization enables localized energy solutions that address specific community needs.
- **Workforce Inclusion:** It was stressed that the transition to renewable energy should be inclusive of the local workforce. Policies must support skills development through training programs and apprenticeships in the renewable sector, fostering job creation and local ownership of energy projects.

Fireside Chat: How Can Young Professionals Engage in the Adoption of Renewable Energy in Nigeria?

This session brought together young professionals from diverse sectors to discuss their potential roles in Nigeria's energy transition. The discussion explored the avenues available for youth engagement in advocacy, innovation, and policy work, with a focus on renewable energy.

Panelists:

- Abdullahi Murtala (OSPARE)
- Nyiyam Ikyereve (IHRGA)
- Femi Owoeye (Trashmongers)
- Laurretta Boniface (Ecocykle)



Key Takeaways

- **Innovation and Advocacy:** Young professionals were encouraged to actively engage in the innovation of new technologies that can drive renewable energy adoption. This could include everything from solar panel innovations to energy storage solutions. Additionally, youth were urged to engage in policy advocacy, pushing for policies that promote green energy and sustainability.
- **Collaboration with Public Institutions:** A key message was the importance of collaboration with both public institutions and private enterprises to bring about effective policy and project implementation. By working with government bodies, young professionals can influence decision-making processes and ensure the incorporation of youth perspectives in policy frameworks.
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- **Pathways to Become Changemakers:** Panelists shared personal experiences and practical advice on how young people can transition into changemakers within the climate action sector. This included suggestions on education pathways, networking opportunities, and involvement in community-based initiatives focused on renewable energy and environmental justice.

Panel Session: Ensuring Our Energy Transition is Rooted in Environmental Justice

This panel focused on the intersection of energy transition and environmental justice. It sought to answer how Nigeria can ensure that the shift to renewable energy is equitable, empowering marginalized communities, addressing gender disparities, and promoting social justice in the energy sector.

Panelists:

- Hauwa Mustapha (Tubali Women Development)
- Tunde Salman (Good Governance Team Nigeria)
- Tolulope Gbenro (Youth Sustainable Development Network)

Discussion Takeaways:

Equity in Energy Access: The conversation stressed the need for an inclusive transition to renewable energy, ensuring that marginalized groups, particularly women and rural communities, have equal access to clean and affordable energy. Without equitable access, existing inequalities may worsen.

Gender-Sensitive Approaches: A significant focus was on integrating gender-sensitive strategies into energy policies. Recognizing that women are often disproportionately affected by energy poverty, the panel emphasized the importance of including women's voices in decision-making and creating tailored solutions for women and children.

Community Empowerment: The panel highlighted the necessity of empowering local communities by involving them in the planning and execution of energy projects. Community engagement and ownership are vital for the long-term sustainability and success of these initiatives.

Business Models for Social Impact: The discussion emphasized that new business models should prioritize environmental justice and social impact over profits. Renewable energy businesses are encouraged to align their strategies with social goals, such as providing affordable energy solutions to underserved populations.

Quick Chat with Investor Guests

In this session, investors discussed their perspectives on financing sustainable energy projects. The conversation revolved around how investors are evaluating climate-related business proposals and which projects align with their sustainability goals.

- Guests:
- Saraya Yaduma (Climate Justice Advocate)
- Nana Skari Maidugu (Head of Sustainability and ESG, NSIA)
- Objective:
- The discussion focused on the growing interest among investors in environmentally just and sustainable energy projects. The NSIA representative discussed the types of renewable energy and climate-focused projects the agency would be most likely to fund.

Key Insights:

- **Investor Interest in Sustainable Projects:** Investors are increasingly seeking opportunities that align with both financial returns and sustainability goals. They are looking for projects that have clear environmental and social benefits, particularly those that involve energy access for underserved communities.
- **Types of Investable Projects:** The NSIA highlighted the importance of identifying projects that have a clear pathway to sustainability, both in terms of energy generation and environmental impact. The agency is particularly interested in off-grid energy solutions, green infrastructure, and projects that reduce Nigeria's carbon footprint simultaneously driving profitability.

Screening & Open House Discussion Film: "Drifting Away"

The session included a screening of Drifting Away, a documentary that examines the environmental and social consequences of climate change and energy neglect in rural communities, particularly in Nigeria.

Highlights:

- **Environmental and Social Impacts:** The film illustrated the severe effects of climate change, including droughts, flooding, and loss of arable land. It also addressed the social challenges faced by rural communities, such as displacement and difficulties in accessing clean energy.
- **Call for Action:** The documentary served as a compelling call to action, urging immediate efforts to close the energy access gap and mitigate climate change impacts. It emphasized the necessity for targeted interventions in rural areas to enhance energy access and build climate resilience.

Summary of Key Takeaways

- The importance of inclusive and long-term policies that prioritize both people and the planet in driving renewable energy adoption.
- The need for youth engagement in both policy advocacy and technological innovation to accelerate the energy transition.
- The integration of gender-sensitive approaches and a focus on community empowerment to ensure that energy transition efforts are equitable and beneficial to all.
- The growing interest of investors in sustainable energy projects that combine financial returns with social and environmental impact.
- The role of documentaries and public awareness in educating and mobilizing the public to take action on climate change and renewable energy adoption.

Adjournment

Closing remarks by Chika Chikwendu Sophie, reflecting on the discussions and reiterating the importance of continued collaboration and advocacy



Gallery



During the Panelist Session on How Can Young Professionals Engage in the Adoption of Renewable Energy in Nigeria First left Femi Owoye - TrashMongers, Murtala Abdullahi ,Niyam Ikyereve - Initiative for Human Rights and Gender Awareness (IHRGA), Laretta Boniface - Ecocykle-Grid Energy



First left Niyam Ikyereve , Patience Enegide - Program Officer, Victor Ugochukwu Program Officer Research Initiative for Human Rights and Gender Awareness (IHRGA), Exhibition Stand

Gallery



Former Minister of Environment Hon. Mohammed Hassan Abdullahi @ IHRGA Exhibition Stand



Report by Victor Ugochukwu



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