



Engaging Youth and Higher Education for Climate Change Response
Cases from Kenya and the United States

June 30, 2022

Co-hosted by the Higher Education Engagement and Transformation and Business, Entrepreneurship, and Private Sector Engagement Communities of Practice

Photo Credit: USAID/Indonesia

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Webinar Housekeeping

- Please mute yourself when not speaking and keep your cameras off
- Post questions in the chat at any time
- Turn on English closed captioning with the “CC” button at the bottom of your screen
- This meeting is being recorded. The recording and slides will be available later at youthpower.org
- If you have technical issues please contact Stephanie Schmidt in private message or at stephanies@makingcents.com



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Welcome and CoP Champion Introductions



Yolande Miller-Grandvaux

HEET Community of Practice Champion



Lara Goldmark

BEPSE Community of Practice Champion



Jack Omondi

BEPSE Community of Practice Youth Advisor



Albina Tortbayeva

HEET Community of Practice Youth Advisor



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Our Agenda

- Introductions and Welcome
- The YP2LE Learning Network and HEET and BEPSE CoP Visions
- Columbia University: Starting new climate school - the impact on economic development
- Daystar University Kenya: Addressing the climate issues - youth perspectives and university actions
- Discussion and questions
- What's coming up next



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Higher Education Engagement and Transformation (HEET) CoP Goal

The HEET CoP aims to engage expertise within the international education community to advance higher education and youth learning priorities, engage older youth (ages 18-35) to integrate transformational PYD approaches, and work to strengthen the link between PYD and higher education programming.

Discussion Group Link:

<https://www.youthpower.org/group/higher-education-engagement-transformation-heet-community-practice>



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Business, Entrepreneurship, and Private Sector Engagement (BEPSE) CoP Goal

The BEPSE CoP focuses on how donors, governments and financial entities support young entrepreneurs and how to work with private sector leaders.

Discussion Group Link:

<https://www.youthpower.org/group/business-entrepreneurship-and-private-sector-engagement-community-practice>



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How to join: <https://www.youthpower.org/>



1
Register on
YouthPower.org

2
Connect with
others through the
CoP pages,
discussion groups,
and future events



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Our Speakers



Prof. Martha W. Kiarie
Dean at Daystar University,
Professor of Environmental Health



Waweru Chris Avram
Chief Operations Officer,
Wissensof company
Former Student Leader at
Daystar University, Kenya



Sandra Goldmark
Director of Sustainability at Barnard College,
Senior Assistant Dean for Interdisciplinary
Engagement at the Columbia Climate School



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Martha Kiarie



Prof. Martha Wanjiku Kiarie-Makara is a professor of public Health of Daystar University and the current Dean, School of Science Engineering and Health, Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya. Prof. Kiarie has over 27 years of teaching, research, and administration at university level. Prof. Kiarie has widely researched on matters the Environment; its role and effects on human health, vector borne diseases such as malaria and Leishmaniasis. Prof. Kiarie is a member of the Scientific Committee and Editorial board member- International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC from 2019 to date) by The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM) in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. At Daystar University, Professor Kiarie teaches among others a university wide course, Environmental Sciences that deals with environmental issues, Challenges like pollution, climate change and food security while looking and how man can sustainably make use of the environmental resources. She is a long-standing Patron of the student led Environmental clubs that uses student led initiatives to train on sustainability, protection, and the role of the youth in the environmental protection. One of the major activities of the club is the annual tree planting and clean-up activity that include community outreach. Prof. Kiarie is an editor associate editor and reviewer of many scientific journals.

Prof. Kiarie is a visiting Professor with Kosin University, South Korea. Martha holds PhD in Environmental Health, M.Sc. in Vector Biology and Bachelor of Education, Science with Botany, Zoology and Chemistry from Kenyatta University Nairobi, Kenya.



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Daystar University, Kenya

Addressing Climate Issues Youth Perspectives and University Actions



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DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY



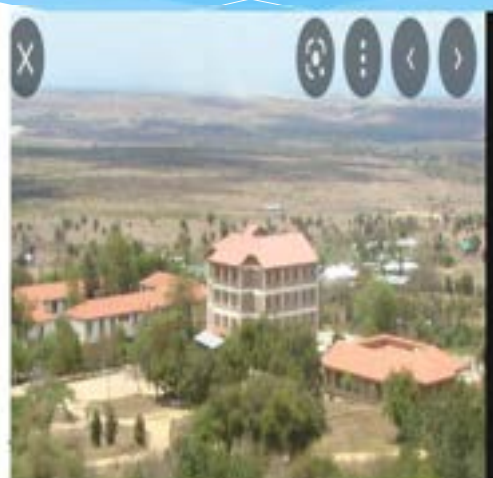
*Daystar University is situated in Athi River-Lukenya-Machakos County- area which is a semi-arid area, characterized by erratic rains, drought, intense land subdivision and habitat degradation with a rapidly growing population with low environmental consciousness.

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Daystar over the years Lukenya area as Daystar University was starting

1996

2002



12

Daystar by 2010



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Daystar in 2020 and 2022



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WHAT & IT WHY HAPPENED

Daystar acknowledged that area where it is situated is dry, prone to serious water shortage, dry dusty winds, prolonged dry spell with no rains, minimum vegetation cover and the campus did not give any attractive ambiance for learning

People were settling in large numbers clearing the bushes-- the area was prone to further degradation

It was agreed that the whole community; staff, faculty and the students and latter the neighbours need to be involved in making the place habitable, help push back dry effects

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Phase of efforts

Phase I--Main streaming Sustainability and environmental issues in the teaching for all daystar student from 1998

Phase2-- Involve the students tree planting without the campus and encourage them to care for the trees—Indigenous trees

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Efforts towards sustainability for climate change response

- Phase 3--A course - Environmental Science was developed-- Env Problems, degradation, effect of man, green house effect, climate change -- role of man in pushing back climate change effect
- Phase 4-- Student led - environmental sustainability activities set in motion through student clubs at school, regional and national levels

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Climate change response

Phase 5: Intense tree planting of more than 15, 000 tree in two phases (2019 and 2020) and continuing

- * These efforts were student/youth led as the students were involved in all the tree planting and caring for trees
- * Efforts continue as the student-led Green Diaries Challenge is an initiative of the Daystar Environmental Sustainability Club to create a culture of environmental literacy, consciousness, accountability within the university and its community

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Efforts towards sustainability

The students clubs continue plant more trees, work on plastic collection and recycling

Students at networked with those from other Kenyan universities through the Green space Universities initiative, a formation of a group of universities in Kenya.

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Youth Perspectives from Daystar University Kenya:

Waweru Chris Avram



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Waweru Chris Avram



Waweru Chris Avram, currently serves as the Chief Operations Officer for The Wissensof Company, as well as the Station Manager for Shine FM Daystar- Daystar University's Premier Radio Station.

Chris has led his team to advocate for environmental sustainability whilst providing different opportunities for growth for both students, schools & corporations and is the first recipient of Daystar University's Star Environmental Champion of the year award.

As an Environmental Champion, Chris has engaged in different high-level forums such as The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), The UN-Habitat Youth Blue Economy Conference (The curtain raiser for the first-ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference) and The Second UN-Habitat Youth Blue Economy Conference on the preset of the first-ever UN-Habitat Assembly. He has also advised and worked with various local and international organizations, including but not limited to Impact Summit (Prague), Parvati Foundation (Canada) and The Coca-Cola Company in Kenya to host the first-ever Daystar Green Week to create awareness and educate on sustainability.

He has also volunteered with Youth For Our Planet, a global youth movement calling for urgent action on nature and climate, as one of the Country Mobilizers in Kenya to design a plan for who to target and what to ask for to tackle the nature and climate change emergency.



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Broadening Engagement on Climate Change

Policies and practices which foster equity, diversity and quality of life for students, staff, and the broader community within which the university is based

The campus as "living laboratory" – student involvement in environmental learning to transform the learning environment

Frameworks to support cooperation among universities both nationally and globally



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How can higher education institutions work with youth on climate change?

Youth leadership and civics:

- Support students to integrate environmental sustainability into their day to day lives through creating awareness, education and effecting behavior & attitude change campaigns thus getting familiarized with sustainability in their habits and lifestyle choices.
- Advocate to put environmental issues at the center stage and this can be effected with the interlink between behavior & attitude change campaigns as well as the educating on matters sustainability.

Community Engagement centers:

- Strengthening collaboration with communities, including local, regional and global communities where universities can act as solution providers to problems facing the society
- Hold space where students can apply knowledge to improve the living conditions of people outside the gates of the university.



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Centering Students

Civics: Universities can support students to integrate environmental sustainability and getting familiarized with sustainability in their habits and lifestyle choices. A lot of advocacy and outreach is required to put environmental issues at the center stage. This can be done through:

- **Having students at the heart of results:** The greatest sustainability metric for any university is the lifestyle and behavior choices that students make for the next 70 years of their lives. Building students into the sustainability journey of the University is critical so that the work goes beyond installing solar panels on roofs and focuses on mindset and behavior change around student lifestyle choices.
- **Introduce a Student Green Council:** This will aid students to get support for action and provide feedback on progress.



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Why this Approach?

Youth/Youth Groups/CBO's/CSO's are uniquely placed to provide motivating environmental education and opportunities for engagement by promoting empowerment and community activism through encouraging individual and group work, team building and social interaction.

Through encouraging Student and Youth empowerment programs, we can have an incredible impact on the students, youth and the larger community by increasing access to opportunities, removing barriers to education and development of skills for the long term.



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Sandra Goldmark



Sandra Goldmark is a designer, professor, entre- and intra-preneur of regenerative and circular climate responses. Sandra serves as Senior Assistant Dean for Interdisciplinary Engagement at the [Columbia Climate School](#), and Director of Sustainability and Climate Action and Associate Professor of Professional Practice at [Barnard College](#). Rooted in her training as a theatrical designer, Sandra leverages radical collaboration to build bold new programs and lead nimble, effective teams. From 2013-2019, Sandra founded and operated [Fixup](#), a social enterprise repair service dedicated to healthy and circular patterns of consumption. Sandra is a co-creator the [Sustainable Production Toolkit](#), a free climate action and sustainability resource for performing arts organizations, and serves on the Board of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. Her work has been [featured](#) in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, MSNBC, the BBC, The Sunday Times of London, The Daily News, Salon.com, and many more. Sandra is the author of *Fixation: How to Have Stuff without Breaking the Planet*. www.sandragoldmark.com



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COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL
Climate, Earth, and Society

Partnering for Climate

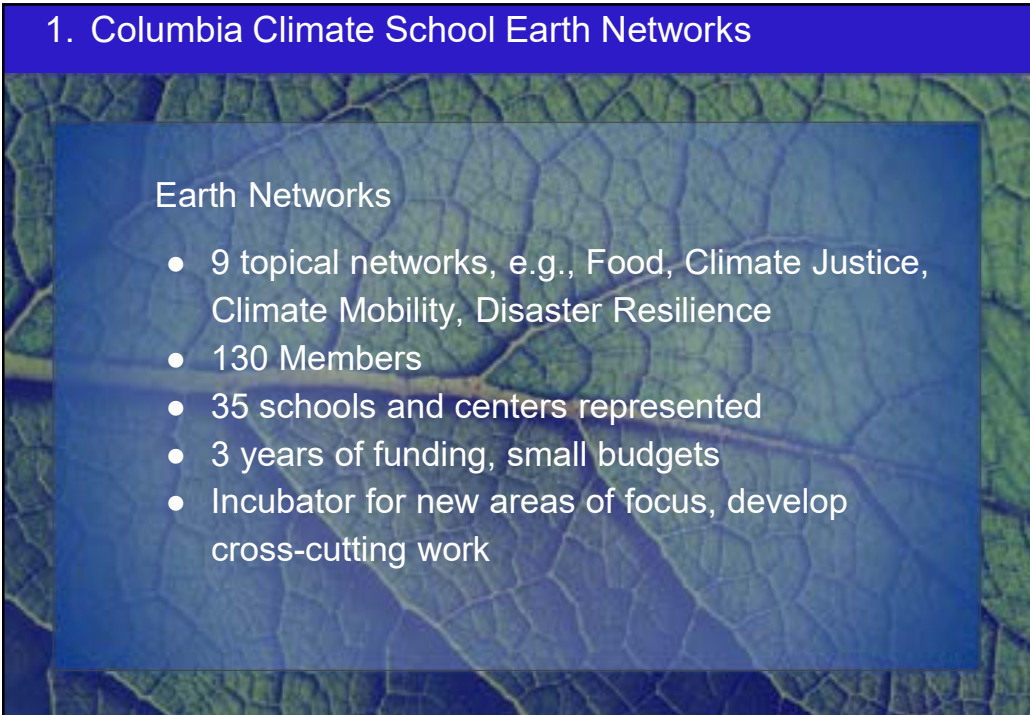
Across Sectors and Disciplines:

1. Earth Networks at the Columbia Climate School
2. Circular Campus at Barnard College


BARNARD

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1. Columbia Climate School Earth Networks



Earth Networks

- 9 topical networks, e.g., Food, Climate Justice, Climate Mobility, Disaster Resilience
- 130 Members
- 35 schools and centers represented
- 3 years of funding, small budgets
- Incubator for new areas of focus, develop cross-cutting work

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Earth Networks: Internal and External Partnerships

June 2022 Workshops

- Storytelling
- Radical Collaboration
- Centering Justice
- Honing In



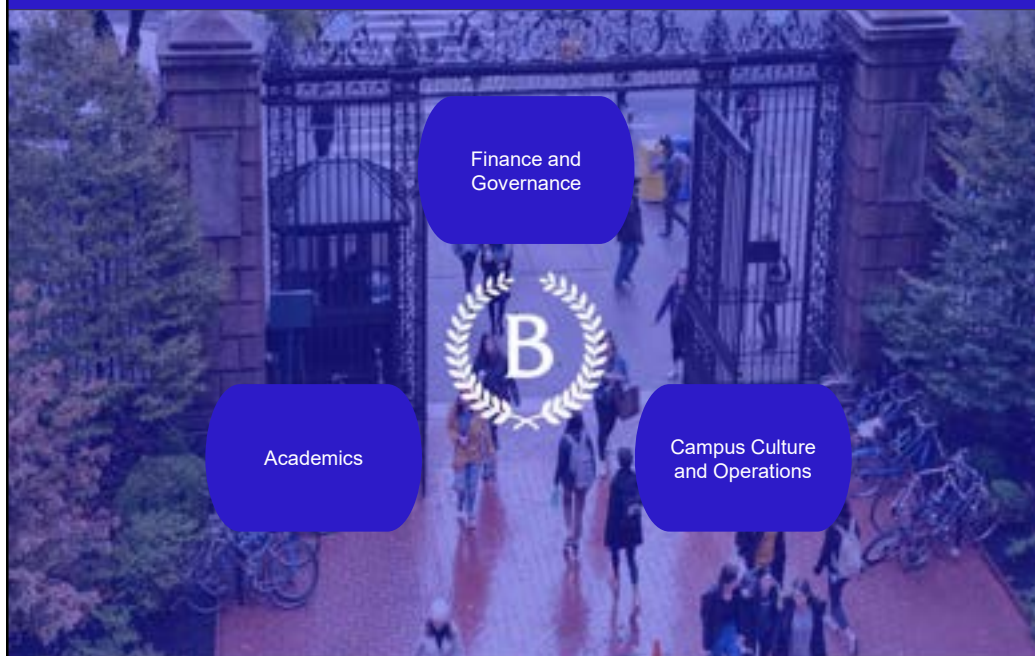
Food Network example:

- Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture
- Research, capstone projects, policy proposals



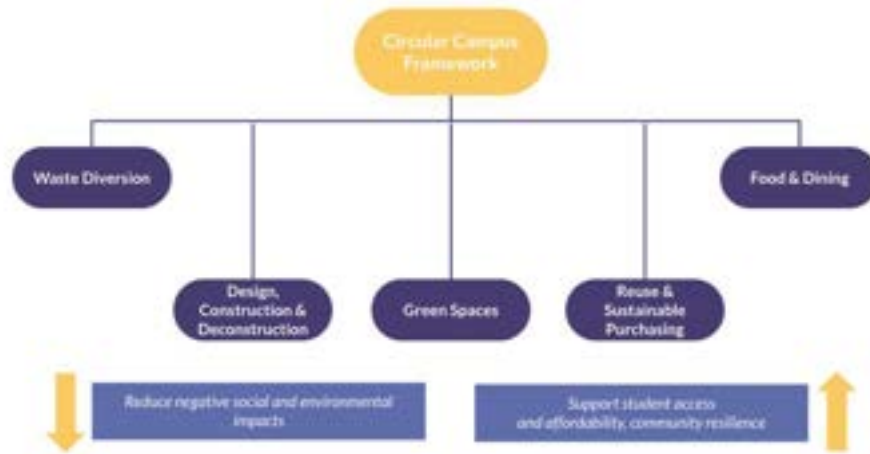
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2. Barnard Sustainability and Climate Action: A 360 Degree Approach



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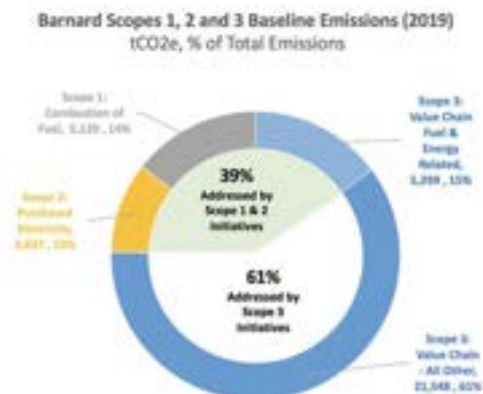
Barnard's Circular Campus



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Circular Campus: Why and how

- Scope 3 emissions analysis
- Workday (EMS) integration
- Rheaply reuse platform
- Sustainable procurement policies



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Circular Campus: Internal Reuse case study

Since Rheaply's Barnard launch in Fall 2021, we have...

Activated
740 users

Saved users
\$20,210.97

Facilitated 436
exchanges
between
community
members

Diverted 1.46
US tons from
landfills



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Circular Campus: Internal and External Partnerships

Purchasing

Access Barnard

Student
Government
Association

The Digital
Humanities
Center

Facilities

Community
Engagement and
Inclusion

Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion



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Join us!



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Questions and Discussion



YOUTHPOWER2
LEARNING AND EVALUATION

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Coming Up in the YouthPower Learning Network

Find details and register on the [YouthPower.org Events](https://youthpower.org/events) page



July 14, 2022: Research to Change: Localizing Youth Leadership in Implementation Research (YouthExcel and Youth Engagement CoP)



August 10, 2022: Youth Power to Youth Systems: Lessons from Jordan (MENA Youth and Youth Systems Strengthening CoPs)



Watch for future BEPSE and HEET events this year, and join our discussions online!



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THANK YOU!

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