

GEEP Webinar

Education Bright Spots: Circular Economy Solutions from Across Africa

August 11, 2026

About the webinar: How can environmental education help build a future where waste is reduced, resources are valued, and communities thrive? Across Africa, educators, community organizations, and environmental leaders are developing creative, locally driven solutions that put the principles of a circular economy into practice. Join GEEP Africa as we hear from three inspiring educators who are leading these "bright spot" initiatives in their own communities. They'll share practical examples of how they are integrating circular economy principles into schools, community programs, and environmental education initiatives—and the lessons they've learned along the way.

The views expressed in this chat are not an official endorsement from the GEEP of any resource, opportunity, or opinion.

Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/44Bba6sGBZs>

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/EducationBrightSpots>

Speakers

- **Cindy Cloete** (moderator), WESSA
- **Linda Godfrey**, CSIR
- **Ledama Masidza**, Moya Moja
- **Hobson Agyapong**, Ghana's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Green Diversity Africa

Resources from the speakers:

- About CSIR <https://www.csir.co.za/what-we-do/natural-environment/sustainable-ecosystems/sustainability-circular-economy-and-waste>
- South Africa's Waste RDI Roadmap and the Circular Economy STI Strategy at www.wasteroadmap.co.za and www.circulareconomy.co.za

Zoom Chat

- **Fran Agnone:** Morning! I'm Fran zooming in from New York City.
- **Anne Umali:** Hi! I'm joining you all from the US, excited to be here with all of you!
- **Solomon Freeman:** Hi everyone I'm Solomon Freeman an aspiring ecologist
Zooming from Ghana!
- **Fran Agnone:** Love CEE-Change!
- **Dina awino:** Hello, Dinah Awino from Kenya, Founder - AkadiEco and Mentorship Ventures Kenya, Pendo Mazingira Program-
kawinodinah@gmail.com//akadi@akadieco.org -<https://www.linkedin.com/in/awino-dinah-menv-studies-612743110/>
- **Solomon Freeman:** Thank youu!
- **Enoch Donkor:** My Name is Enoch Donkor from Ghana. Earth Stewards Foundation
- **Isabella Paeye Ntsabane:** Hi. I'm Isabella. I'm connecting from Washington, DC
- **Zia P.:** I am a Founder, Biology student, educator and human and animal conservationist. Currently based in Boston, Mass US
- **Kelvin Ogbonnaya:** Hi everyone, I am Kelvin Ogbonnaya, I represent Health, Environment and You (HEY) from Nigeria
- **Faustin MUHINDO KIBWANA:** Faustin KIBWANA from DR Congo
- **Kelvin Ogbonnaya:** thank you
- **Alexis Peralta:** Hi everyone, I'm Alexis, a County Stormwater Educator in Florida
- **Kathryn Reis:** Kathryn Reis from Randolph SWCD in North Carolina; environmental educator but I am part of Urban Wood Network that seeks to create a circular economy for all trees felled in our living communities
- **Mphemelang Ketlhoilwe:** Hi everyone, I am MJ from Botswana
- **Flic Blakeway:** hello. thank you for presenting this webinar. Flic Blakeway from South Africa. Howick in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands
- **Fran Agnone:** I forgot my org! I'm Fran (she/her), from the Sanitation Foundation, zooming in from New York City. Happy to be here
- **Brekke Bounds:** Hi - Brekke from Illinois (Chicago). Really excited for this one!
- **Pritimah Bhageerutty:** Hi everyone, I am Pritimah Rathoa from Mauritius mu.
- **Elizabeth Biney:** Elizabeth, El Paso, TX, University of Texas at El Paso
- **Anne Umali:** Learn more about the GEEP: <https://thegeep.org/>
- **Déo-Gratias Olatundji YABI:** Hi, My name is YABI Déo-Gratias, I am beninese w
- **Najet Ben Mabrouk:** Hello everyone , nice to be here , Najet from Tunisia
- **MAKENGO (Mack):** is coming with echo
- **James Nyantakyi:** Hi everyone, my name is James, From Ghana, an environmentalist

- **Zia P.:** Thank you Cindy-Lee Cloetel!
- **Samuel Segrera:** Hello everyone, Samuel and Victor from Ciceana, an NGO here in Mexico. Nice to meet everyone
- **Lordia Blay:** Lordia Blay, a graduate student at University of Florida but am a Ghanaian
- **Ben Lepley:** Hi all! Ben from Los Angeles, NAAEE.
- **daby toolsee:** Greetings. Toolsee Daby from Mauritius. I am an educator teaching economics and a doctoral student at the Open University of Mauritius.
- **Veronica Manga:** I am Veronica, Professor University of Buea, Cameroon
- **Edna Apaya:** I'm Edna Apaya, a Ghanaian and a graduate of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- **Judy Braus:** Welcome to everyone. Such a great group from around the world! :-)
- **Enoch Donkor:** Hello, Enoch Donkor, I represent Earth Stewards Foundation, Ghana. An NGO in Ghana dedicated to Educating Children to be stewards of the Environment.
- **Najet Ben Mabrouk:** Najet Ben Mabrouk, From Tunisia , Youth led climate initiative She leads oasis as a space of innovative thinking based on what best practices in Oases ecosystem. let's connect : <https://www.linkedin.com/in/najet-benmabrouk>
- **Anne Umali:** Please share any questions you have for the speakers, and we'll get to as many as we can today.
- **Matheko Kelepa:** Hi ery impressive
- **Matheko Kelepa:** My name is Matheko Kelepa
- **MAKENGU (Mack):** My NAME IS MAKENGU from Angola
- **Nomonde Radebe:** Hi everyone, in Nomonde Radebe , I'm the former CSIR Environmental Manager . Currently the CEO for Smondz Sustainability Solutions.
- **Judy Braus:** Here's the websire: <https://www.csir.co.za/what-we-do/natural-environment/sustainable-ecosystems/sustainability-circular-economy-and-waste>
- **Judy Braus:** Love the emphasis on strengthening skills in all sectors--from architects to social scientists.
- **Nomonde Radebe:** hi again, here's the website for Smondz Sustainability Solutions. <https://www.smondzsustainability.com/>
- **Flic Blakeway:** excellent! thank you Linda. You interact internationally extensively. soooo... Comparatively, how prepared is Africa for the disruption that is going to accompany the transition to the Circular Economy?
- **Anne Umali:** Linda, are you seeing any skill-building happening at the high school level in South Africa? One of our CEE-Change Fellows, Fran, who's here today works on circular economy skill building for high school students in New York City.

- **Aouatif Zebiri:** Where do government policies come to play to structure and guide big businesses towards a path towards circular economy
- **Fran Agnone:** <3 thanks Anne!
- **Nomonde Radebe:** Thank you Prof Linda, very insightful presentation.
- **Najet Ben Mabrouk:** how can we create e-learning CE concept in Africa (from the best practices integrated IA tools and Data science to accelerate innovation especially for Agrifood system and behaviour change ?
- **Kelvin Ogbonnaya:** What we do at the Health Environment and You (HEY) in advancing Waste Management and Circular Economy through education. Our website: www.heyinitiative.ng
- **Veronica Manga:** Thank you Prof Linda
- **Zia P.:** Happy to meet you Mr. Masidza, glad to follow you on LinkedIn 🙏.
- **Najet Ben Mabrouk:** thanks a lot to Dr Linda , I guess that this session it will be fruitful for us to reach connect and collaborate , furthermore to exchange idea about CE and the potential scalability initiative across worldwide
- **Judy Braus:** Systems problem, not just a waste problem.
- **Zia P.:** I love the work you do with education and pollution prevention, wonderful!
- **Nomonde Radebe:** Prof. Linda, what would you say in your views is the SA industry advancements on circular economy in the water sector.
- **Kelvin Ogbonnaya:** Amazing work you do
- **Flic Blakeway:** THANK YOU, Ledama! Your presentation and work is inspiring! I have followed the progress of Waste Reclaimers in Kenya for some years now. It is encouraging to see that stakeholder forums involving the government and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance are increasingly prioritising a "just transition" that treats waste reclaimers as official partners in modernising national recycling infrastructure. What can be done to speed up the just transition?
- **Linda Godfrey (CSIR):** @Flic thanks for your question. I think Africa (as with so many developing countries) is very ready for that disruption, because I'd argue it is less disruptive for Africa (we are already doing many of these things, often driven by poverty and social need), and there is an opportunity to improve quality of life in the global south through a more sustainable, circular development path
- **Linda Godfrey (CSIR):** @ I can't say I've directly come across any high school level skill-building specifically around the circular economy. Many schools in SA have internal waste programmes, aimed at building awareness around recycling. Organisations such as PlasticsSA has school programmes to raise awareness around recycling
- **Zia P.:** It is inspiring to have leaders like you, thank you Mr. Masidza!

- **Thato Majola:** This discussion resonates strongly with my work at the intersection of environmental education, adult learning, community resilience and sustainable development.
 - One perspective I would like to add is that community-based learning spaces can function as hubs for building knowledge, skills, participation and resilience. I see potential for these spaces to become platforms where communities learn about circular practices, co-create locally relevant solutions, develop green skills and connect local knowledge with innovation.
 - I have one question Ledama ,Could community learning centres therefore be conceptualised as “social infrastructure” for accelerating locally owned circular economy transitions in African communities?
- **Linda Godfrey (CSIR):** @Aouatif, very important, how do we put the right policies in place., e.g., policies that make it easy to beneficiate waste streams by reconsidering how we define waste, policies on consumer right-to-repair, policies on second-hand goods, policies that incentivize regenerative agriculture, policies that disincentivize resource-intensive, high-carbon activities, and then removing policies that support and incentivize a linear economy (and much more)
- **Kathryn Reis:** I love this presentation, Ladema! You helped me as an environmental educator in a rural county and as member of the urban wood movement (how to give trees cut down around homes, streets, parks and businesses a second life).
- **Lordia Blay:** What a great presentation! My Boss, will always say the last person to see the waste has the responsibility to prevent it from polluting!
- Stephen Agbemasiku: well done 🙌🙌
- **Kelvin Ogbonnaya:** Great Presentation Prof!
- **Zia P.:** Mr. Masidza, what is a key education tip that has helped your students educational journey at any stage, of all ages the most?
- **Zia P.:** Thank you!
- **Linda Godfrey (CSIR):** @Nomonde, I think South Africa has a very long history of circularity in the water sector - especially as a water scarce country, reuse of grey water, water efficiency, water recovery from wastewater streams, etc. Obviously still a lot more to do, especially on upstream interventions (efficiency, sufficiency), e.g., decoupling agriculture production from water use
- **Zia P.:** Yes, thank you very much! Brilliant tip!
- **Lordia Blay:** i always feel Values and Ethics is instrumental in our journey as environmental educators ! however, the government lags in the enablers that Linda talked about.

- **Kelvin Ogbonnaya:** we can here you
- **Samuel Segrera:** Hello Ledama, nice presentation, thank you. I wanted to ask if you have any tip to make stories engaging for the target audience we want to?
- **Yaw Boahene:** GH
- **Stephen Agbemasiku:** Louder and clear 😊
- **KENNETH NWAICHI:** Please, Ledama, I am a PhD candidate with research interest in Sustainability Education. However, I still desire to tie a string around Circularity. Please, I need some links in this direction.
- **Nomonde Radebe:** Thank you Ledama. Very commendable work done on circular economy in Kenya. Very, impressive indeed.
- **Linda Godfrey (CSIR):** For those interested, you can read more about South Africa's Waste RDI Roadmap and the Circular Economy STI Strategy at www.wasteroadmap.co.za and www.circulareconomy.co.za
- **Stephen Agbemasiku:** thank you
- **Judy Braus:** Everyone will get the recording and a copy of the chat. Thanks for the great comments and questions for our speakers.
- **Faustin MUHINDO KIBWANA:** The value of this concept is that it simultaneously addresses several major challenges facing Africa, including waste, pollution, youth unemployment, agriculture, climate change, poverty, and the conservation of natural resources.
 - Education can therefore become a powerful driver of change: students are no longer simply recipients of knowledge, but become active agents capable of developing and implementing solutions within their own communities.
 - This approach is also consistent with current climate education initiatives that seek to identify and promote “bright spots,” meaning local initiatives that are already working and from which lessons can be learned and replicated in other communities.
 - In Brief: The circular economy teaches us to stop viewing waste as the end of a product’s life, but rather as the beginning of a new use. Education helps transmit this vision to young people and communities, empowering them to become active creators of environmental and economic solutions.
- **Zia P.:** Blessings to you in Ghana even amidst the horrid flood 🙏GH
- **Linda Godfrey (CSIR):** Great summary @Faustin, I'd probably just add to your summary, in addition to reusing waste, to also design out waste at the start - the sharing economy provides wonderful opportunities for this through non-ownership models, by designing products for longevity, for repair, reuse
- **Zia P.:** Blessings to you in Ghana even amidst the horrid flood 🙏GH

- **Fran Agnone:** Thanks for this great dialogue and bright spots. I have to hop off but appreciated everyone's perspective.
- **Najet Ben Mabrouk:** great initiative, well done ledama Mazidsa
- **Flic Blakeway:** An absolutely inspiring an enlightening webinar! THANK YOU to the organisers and presenters for enabling us to join, and learn
- **Ravhee Bholah:** How are the formal and non-formal education sectors addressing concepts related to circular economy in Ghana?
- **Zia P.:** Beautiful, I love the shared commitment to youth education, they are our futures ❤️.
- **Lordia Blay:** Given that infrastructure is an important enabler of the circular economy, and much of the existing infrastructure was designed for traditional linear systems, how much is currently being done to innovate or adapt this infrastructure to support the transition toward a circular and regenerative economy?
- **Zia P.:** Thank you, beautiful presentation. May I ask, in your opinion and experience, what would the first step be to bridge the gap and to help benefit the researchers and the industry?
- **daby toolsee:** How do we motivate educators to apply the principles of the Circular Economy in the teaching and learning process?
- **Kelvin Ogonnaya:** Thank you very much for your Presentation 🙏
- **Ben Lepley:** Excellent work, thank you so much!
- **Najet Ben Mabrouk:** thank you so much for this session
- **James Nyantakyi:** Great presentation Mr. Hobson...Great job in Ghana
- **Anne Umali:** Yes, we can organize all the questions and notes from the chat and send to you all!
- **Anne Umali:** Thank you to all of our speakers for sharing your stories ❤️
- **Zia P.:** Thank you NAAEE and Cindy-Lee Cloete for hosting a beautiful session ❤️. Also, I appreciate you greatly Mr. Masidza and Mr. Agyapon, may you all continue to prosper 🍀🍀.
- **Judy Braus:** Thanks to everyone! What a great way to learn from each other! Thanks to all our speakers and to Cindy for expert moderating! :-)
- **Ravhee Bholah:** Thank you so much to our speakers for their very insightful presentations
- **Nomonde Radebe:** It is interesting to see how Ghana applies multiple approaches to circularity and how they considered the need to increase investments in recycling infrastructure. I see an extended opportunity to the application of digital opportunity that will come with advanced infrastructure. Well done Ghana.
- **Lordia Blay:** Change from Within! taking this from Linda!

- **Thando Mtshi:** Precious TEAM!!!
- **Anne Umali:** Keep learning 😊
- **Zia P.:** Thank you, you all have a wonderful day!
- **Madeline Halvey:** Thanks to all the presenters!!
- **KENNETH NWAICHI:** Thank you for the insight.
- **Elizabeth Biney:** thank you
- **Flic Blakeway:** ❤️
- **Thato Majola:** Thank you

Questions for Presenter 1, Linda Godfrey:

- **Flic Blakeway:** excellent! thank you Linda. You interact internationally extensively. soooo... Comparatively, how prepared is Africa for the disruption that is going to accompany the transition to the Circular Economy?
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Questions for Presenter 2, Ledama Masidza:

- **Flic Blakeway:** THANK YOU, Ledama! Your presentation and work is inspiring! I have followed the progress of Waste Reclaimers in Kenya for some years now. It is encouraging to see that stakeholder forums involving the government and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance are increasingly prioritising a "just transition" that treats waste reclaimers as official partners in modernising national recycling infrastructure. What can be done to speed up the just transition?
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- **Zia P.:** Mr. Masidza, what is a key education tip that has helped your students educational journey at any stage, of all ages the most?
 - *Question was answered live, please see webinar recording*
- **Samuel Segrera:** Hello Ledama, nice presentation, thank you. I wanted to ask if you have any tip to make stories engaging for the target audience we want to?

Questions for Presenter 3, Hobson Agyapong:

- **Ravhee Bholah:** How are the formal and non-formal education sectors addressing concepts related to circular economy in Ghana?
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