



2023 Post Event Report

The vision of the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI) is to ‘*Ensure the ocean around Bermuda is widely understood, appreciated and protected*’, and the organization has been committed to developing ocean literacy through its educational programmes since its inception nearly 25 years ago.

With the global attention on the health of the world’s oceans, and the direct impact to Bermuda from rising sea levels attributed to global warming, BUEI sought to adopt a holistic approach to further increase ocean literacy and to promote ocean stewardship.

The Youth Climate Summit (YCS) was created by BUEI in 2021 to educate, inform, and engage young people, aged 13-22, on the climate issue. YCS provides an ideal opportunity to involve multiple generations and stakeholders in discussions and collaboration on the broader environmental issues that ultimately impact ocean ecosystems, locally and globally. It also lays the foundation for a year of youth-led initiatives in Bermuda intended to safeguard those ecosystems.

Overview

BUEI's 3rd Youth Climate Summit, was held over six days from November 10-18, 2023. Each year brings a new cohort of first-time participants as well as returning participants. The latter includes a growing body of YCS Alumni, defined as those who have actively taken part in student-led initiatives during the year in-between Summits.

This year, we incorporated changes in response to feedback from educators and partners, and to ensure equitable access throughout the event for all students. Virtual sessions were held over three days instead of four, enabling both onsite days to take place during the school week. Keeping all sessions during school hours, vs. on a Saturday, aided student retention. Saturday was dedicated to a climate action project at Coopers Island Nature Reserve, but it was postponed due to weather conditions.

While this report provides impact data across many touchpoints, one unexpected outcome deserves special attention. Despite an unforeseen closure of public schools on Day 1 for a Professional Development Day (PD), impacted students showed remarkable determination to fully participate. A total of 40 students overcame this unexpected barrier to participate in the mandatory first session: 26 without internet access came onsite to BUEI, while the others watched a recording online and completed an assignment before returning to school after the holiday weekend for Day 2. Additionally, several educators attended the same Day 1 session for their PD, and BUEI's Education Team held PD sessions for middle school science teachers later that afternoon.

The significant resolve shown by a quarter of those registered puts the registration data shown in the table on page 7 of this report into context and underscores their expressed desire to learn more about this topic alongside their peers. The added involvement of Educators through the PD sessions was also a welcome outcome. As reflected by the exclusive partner sessions held during the Environmental Showcase, engaging adults in the same processes as students fuels a circular learning environment that's beneficial for all.

2024 Highlights

PRE-SUMMIT ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES





Your Turn, Your Voice!

Presentation by Dr. Vernon R. Morris

October 18th | 5:30pm - 7:30pm
The Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute's Tradewinds Auditorium

Calling parents, students* and educators...

Dr. Morris is a Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Sciences, and the Director of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences in the New College of Interdisciplinary arts and Sciences, at Arizona State University.

Passionate about broadening the participation of underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), Dr. Morris has guided the research for more than 200 students at the graduate, undergraduate, and high school levels. [His successful hands-on outreach programs and informal science education/exposure projects have reached over 50,000 students worldwide.](#) Among his most notable outreach programmes are a network of high school weather camps that provided nearly 800 students from underserved populations into career opportunities in atmospheric sciences and a series of "Community Science Fests". The latter being a model for bringing science to communities or subpopulations that are not traditionally exposed to such prospects.

As STEM fields represent one of the largest growth sectors of the global economy, exposure and strong academic preparation in these disciplines will allow more Bermudians to confidently engage in addressing the country's most pressing challenges while directly building advocacy for those that are most impacted.

A light supper will be served.

*Students aged 13 - 22

To reserve your seat visit <https://forms.gle/nKAWTtRRhQD23nGN8>

www.ycsbda.com | info@ycsbda.com



Or Scan the QR Code!



Dr. Vernon R. Morris
Scholar, Geoscientist & Advocate for STEM Equity

Highlighting STEM

With the kind support of the US Consul General, BUEI hosted both a partner reception and a public presentation by renowned atmospheric scientist Dr. Vernon Morris. Dr. Morris shared the impacts of programmes he developed to facilitate access for aspiring scientists and science enthusiasts in underserved populations.

Climate Cinema

The annual Climate Cinema series showcased short and feature length environmental films selected to engage the community in the climate conversation in the lead-up to each Youth Climate Summit.

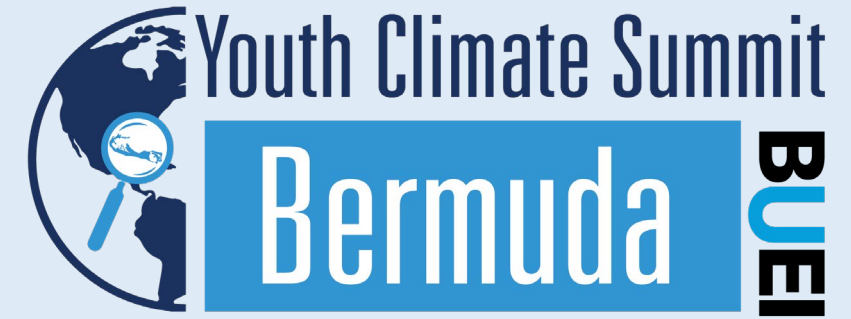
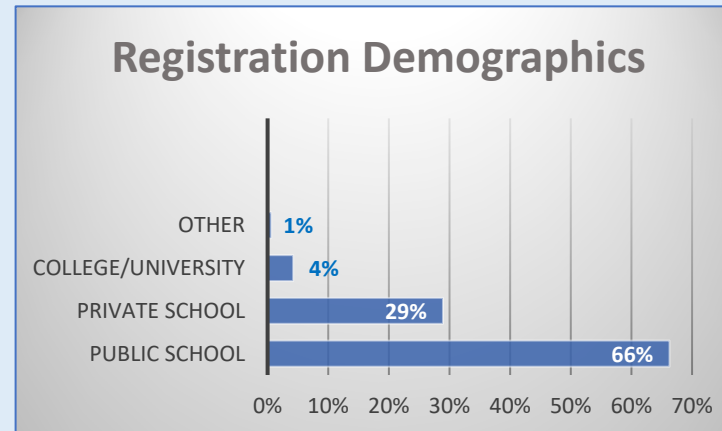
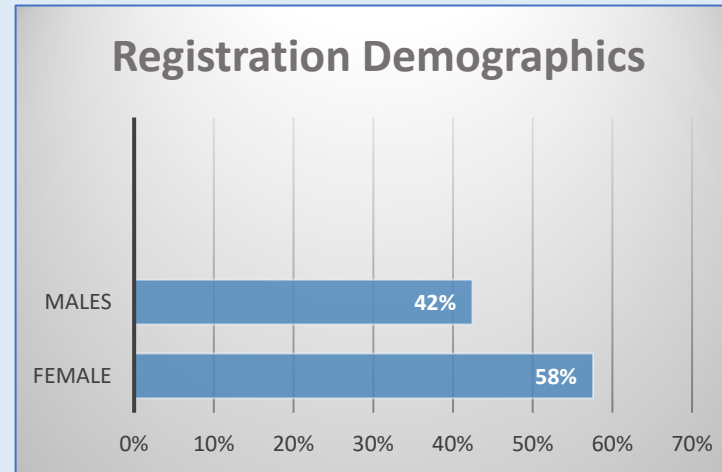


Pre-Summit Educate & Inform

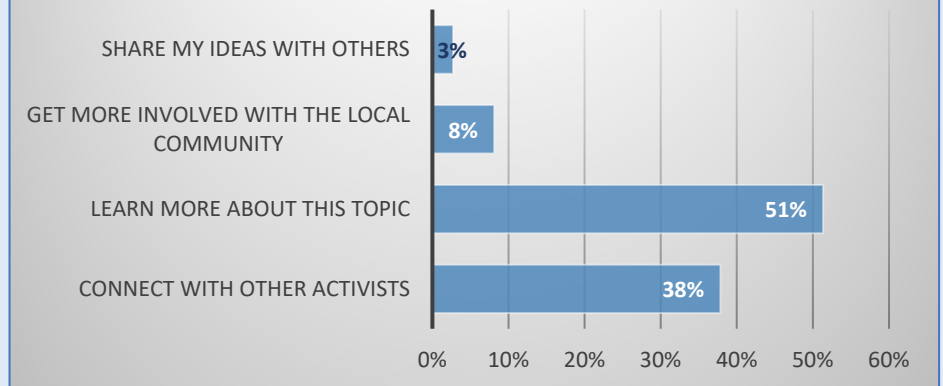
166 Registrations Received

Local School Representation

- Berkeley Institute
- Bermuda Centre for Creative Learning (BCCL)
- Bermuda College
- Bermuda High School (BHS)
- Bermuda Home School Network
- Bermuda Institute
- Cedarbridge Academy
- Dellwood Middle School
- Sands Secondary Middle School
- Somersfield Academy
- Warwick Academy
- Whitney Institute



Why do you want to participate in the Youth Climate Summit?



“Strong links to curriculum and something students are, and should be, passionate about.” Registered Educator

Pre-Summit Outcomes



VIRTUAL SESSIONS IMPACTS

“There are many people like me that would like to see change and are willing to make it.” Student participant, Day 1

“I feel INSPIRED!!!!” Student participant, Day 2

Instead of staring at the ceiling and doing nothing, I could think about things I want to do for the environment. Student participant, Day 3

Friday, Tuesday, Wednesday 12pm – 1.30pm

Purpose: *Build a common understanding to drive conversations*

- International Subject Matter Experts provide background & context
- Global overview, local impact
- Youth Advocates share their stories, challenges & successes
- Facilitated Q&A, daily surveys and polls to maintain engagement

Participation Online Sessions: 155*

**Includes overseas student participants*

Virtual Sessions: Educate, Inform & Engage



WATCH ONLINE!

Friday, November 10th from 12 noon — 1:30pm AST

Climate 101: What's All The Buzz About

What is climate? How does climate change? Why should it matter?

What can we be sure of and what is still to be discovered?

Subject Matter Expert



Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd
Professor of Geography and Atmospheric
Sciences, University of Georgia.

Youth Activists



Ela Gökçigdem
Social Entrepreneur and
Climate Activist



Demetri Sedita
Founder of Green Gasparilla

YCS 2022 Alumni



Olly Cherry
Climate Justice Project



Tejah Bean



WATCH ONLINE NOW AT BUEI'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL - @BUEIBERMUDA

Day 1 Virtual Session



Youth Climate Summit
Bermuda
BUEI

I need to do more in my community. I just have to figure out how.



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What is something new you learned from Dr. Shepherd's presentation?



Youth Climate Summit
Bermuda
BUEI

DR. J. MARSHALL SHEPHERD

Professor of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences
University of Georgia

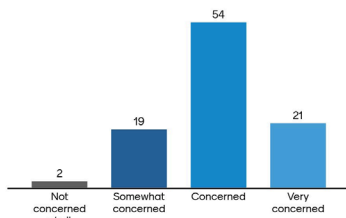
I learned that climate and weather are connected but not the same

There will be fewer hurricanes in Bermuda but when they happen, they will be stronger

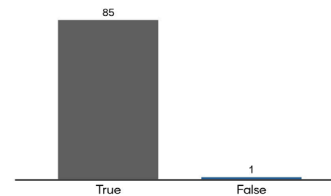
Greenland/Canadian waters are warming up which no longer means that storms will dissipate when reaching those areas.

Coral bleaching expanding to other oceans is something I didn't know!

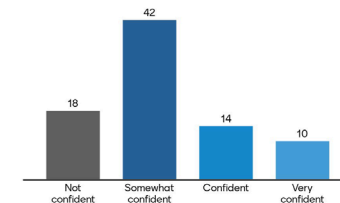
As we start the summit, how concerned are you about climate issues?



The effects of climate change are present in today's weather patterns



How confident are you in your ability to explain the difference between climate and weather?



Day 1 Outcomes



WATCH ONLINE!

Tuesday, November 14th from 12 noon — 1:30pm AST

Climate Action: What Can I Do?

How do I know what is true and what is not? What questions should I be asking?

Subject Matter Expert



Jessica A. Knoblauch
Senior Staff writer at Earthjustice

Youth Activists



Jevanic Henry
UN SG Youth Climate Advisor



Sharona Shnayder
National Geographic Young Explorer
and Founder of Tuesdays for Trash

YCS 2022 Alumni



Terrai Trott
Sustainability Project



Isaiah Fraser



WATCH ONLINE NOW AT BUEI'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL - @BUEIBERMUDA

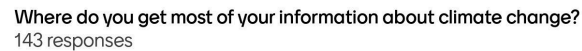
Day 2 Virtual Session



I learned better ways to ask questions

Ask questions despite what people think. Asking questions will not only help yourself but others around you.

Everyone can
make a change in
their own ways



not confident at all


the accuracy of the info you get from media about climate change? 5.5

your ability to vett accuracy of info? 5.7

your ability to take action based on what you know? 5.8

Group	Number of people
Climate scientists	8
Fossil fuel industry	24
Hollywood	6

14



Youth Climate Summit
Bermuda
BUEI

I can do it too no matter my age.

Day 2 Outcomes



WATCH ONLINE!

Wednesday, November 15th from 12 noon — 1:30pm AST

Climate & Me: How Can My Future Look?

Unleashing Your Inner Climate Warrior!

Subject Matter Expert



Bodhi Patil
Climate Solutionist

Youth Activist



Mikaela Loach
Author, Climate Activist, Medical Student
and Podcast Co-Host

YCS 2022 Alumni



Leeya Jeremy



Aron Lugo
Climate Justice Project



Zoë Mir



WATCH ONLINE AT BUEI'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL - @BUEIBERMUDA

Day 3 Virtual Session



BODHI PATIL

Climate Solutionist

What are you taking away from Bodhi Patil's presentation?

That it's okay to be nervous and not really understand something.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Or to try and make a change.

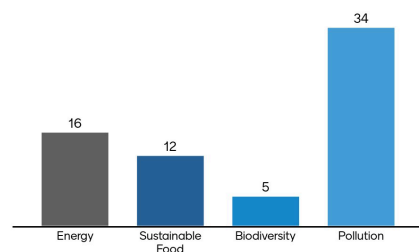
What resonated with me was that there are good ways to cope with anxiety.

Humans and the environment depend on each other.



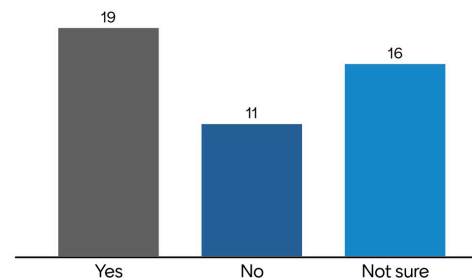
Youth Climate Summit
Bermuda
BUEI

Where do you think that youth climate activism will have the greatest impact?



WAIT UNTIL BODHI PATIL'S PRESENTATION TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

Do you feel eco-anxiety?

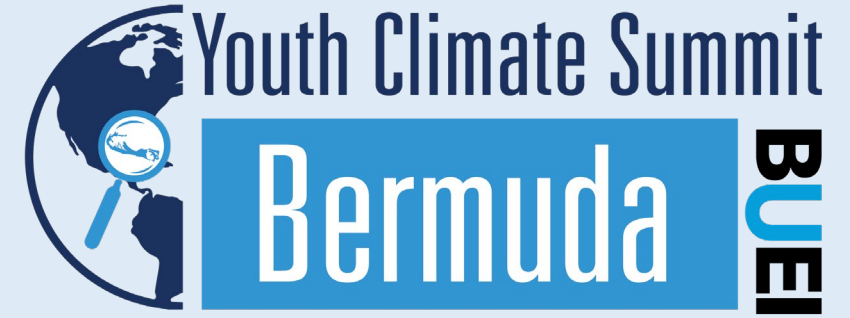


In a word or two, what climate-related topic is most important to you?
25 responses



Day 3 Outcomes

What brings you hope?



**Myself and knowing
that other people
around me and the
world care and are
working to improve
things.**

Seeing people strive to
get the community
pure of life and making
sure wherever they live
is clean and
encouraging others to
do the same.

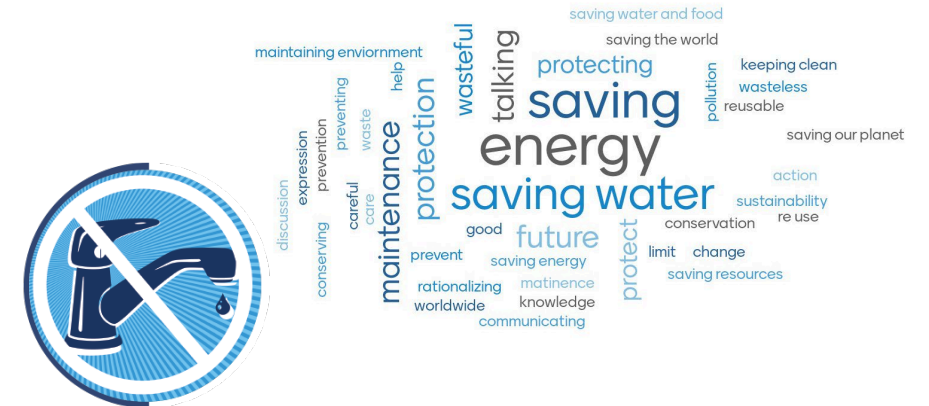
Knowing that
behind some
negative thing
there's always a
positive.

The fact that there are so many people who want to change the way people think about climate change.

Seeing other young people trying to improve our environment.

What does Conservation mean to you?

86 responses



Day 3 Outcomes

BUEI ONSITE ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES



"I wanted to attend the youth climate summit to actually make a difference and work with people who cared deeply about making a difference to help Bermuda." Student Participant

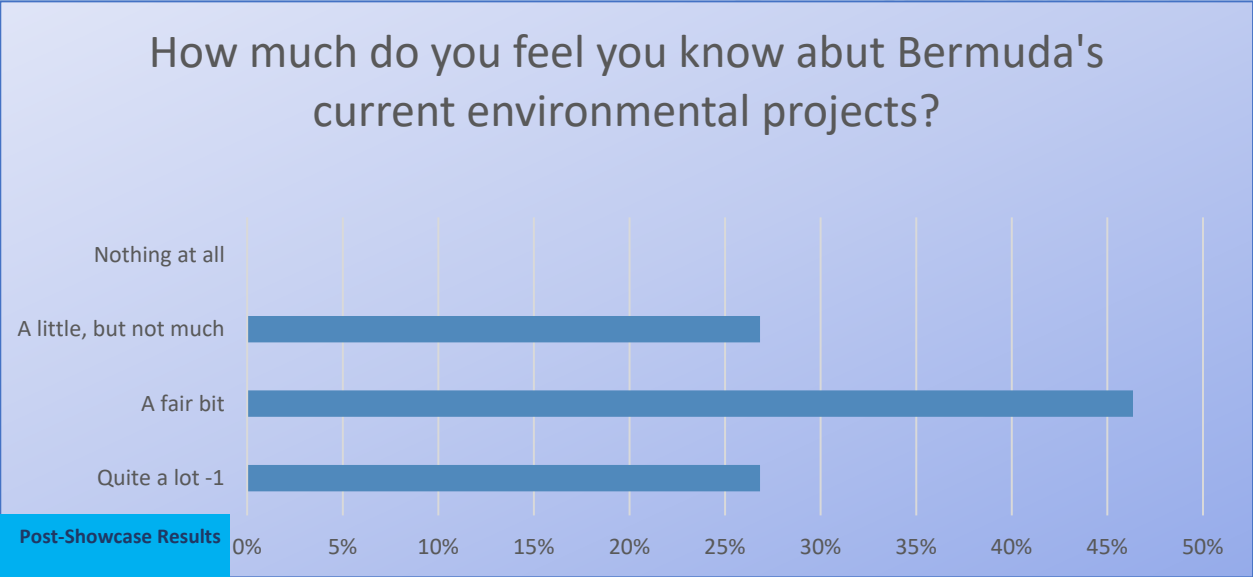
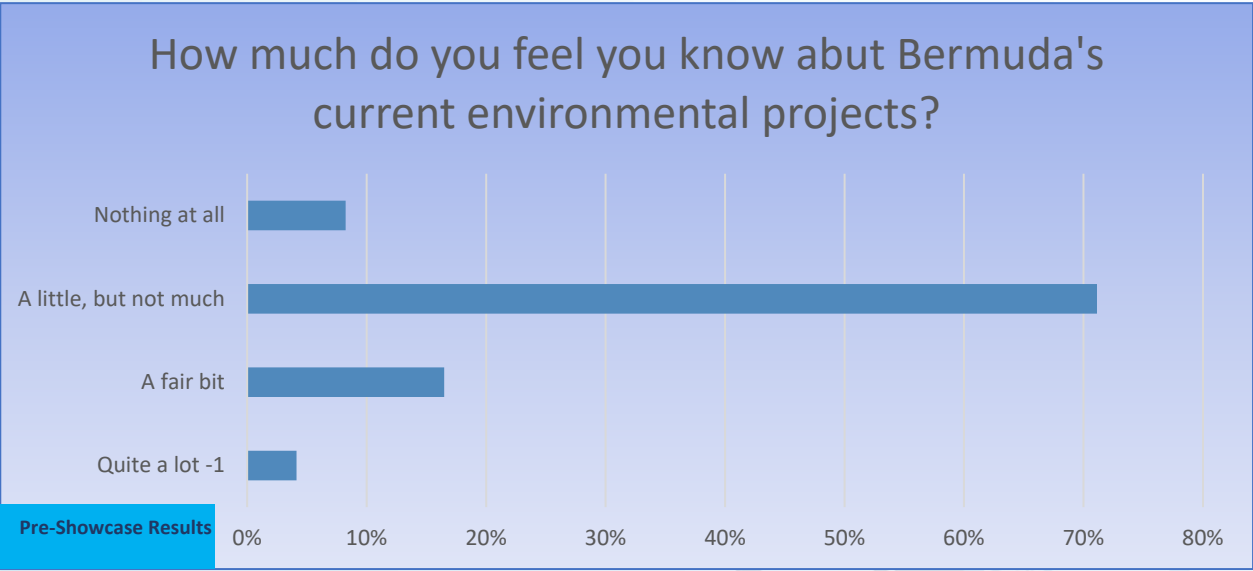


Thursday, November 16th

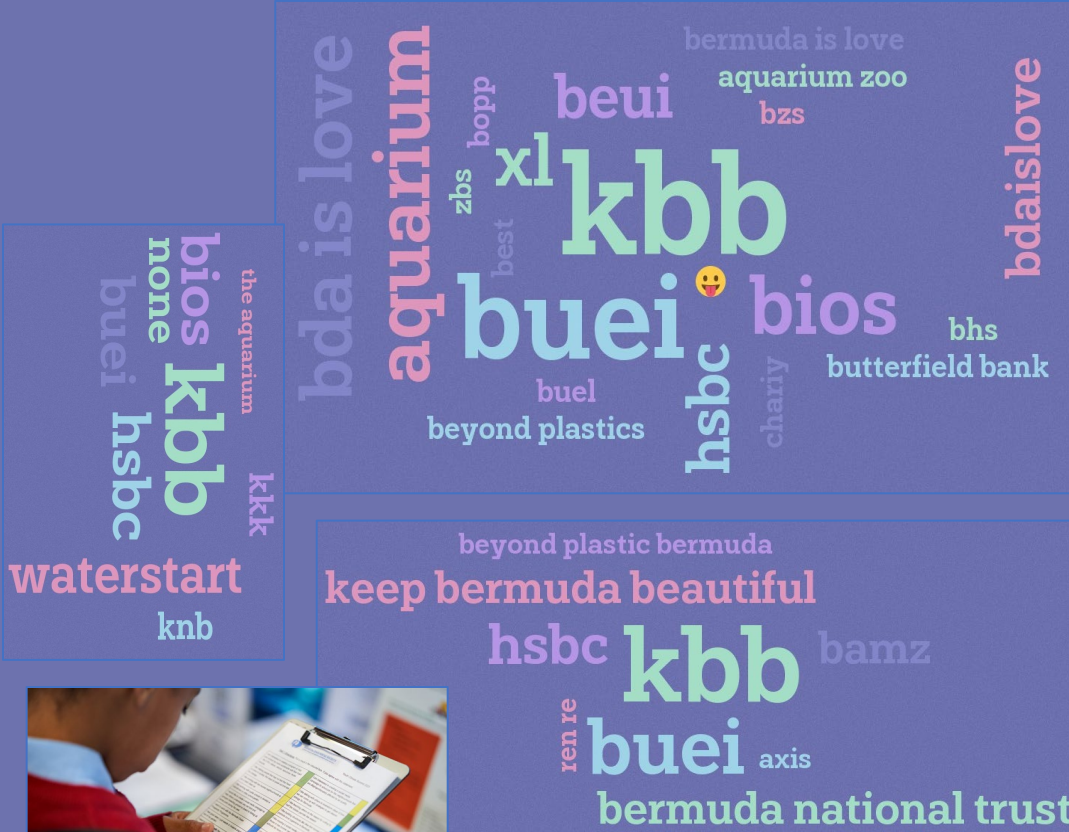
ENVIRONMENTAL SHOWCASE

- **Purpose:** Identify local resources and collaboration opportunities to inform your own action plans.
 - Video presentations by local environmental NGOs
 - Interactive and informative booths
 - Face-to-face engagement with international & local organizations
 - Exclusive Partner Presentations by visiting youth activists
- ❖ *200+ Participants in attendance*
- ❖ *140 Students*
- ❖ *30+ Educators*
- ❖ *22 Environmental Booths (NGO's/Government Agencies/Corporate Partners)*

Environmental Showcase: Inform & Engage

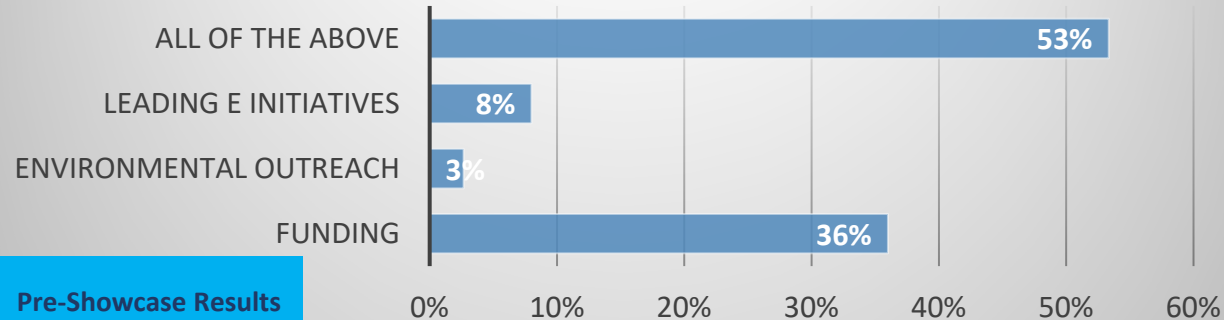


What are some local Environmental Organisations that you know of?
93 responses

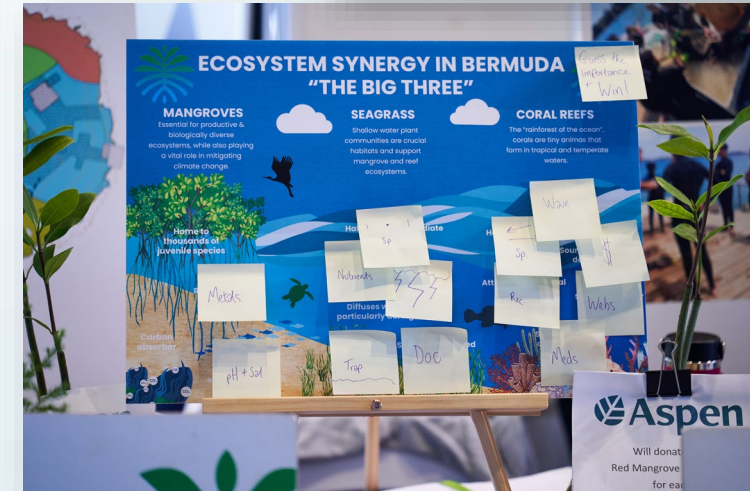
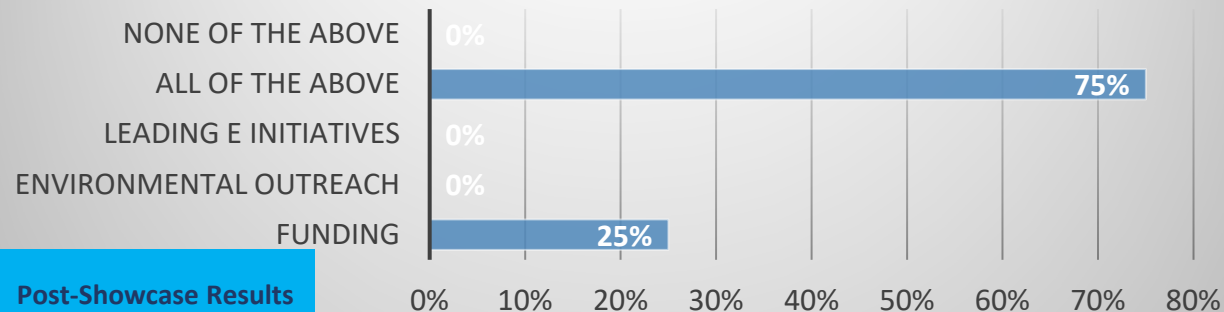


Environmental Showcase: Impact & Outcomes

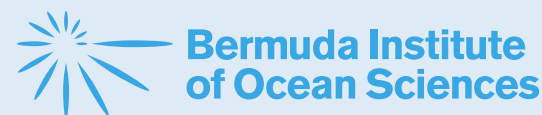
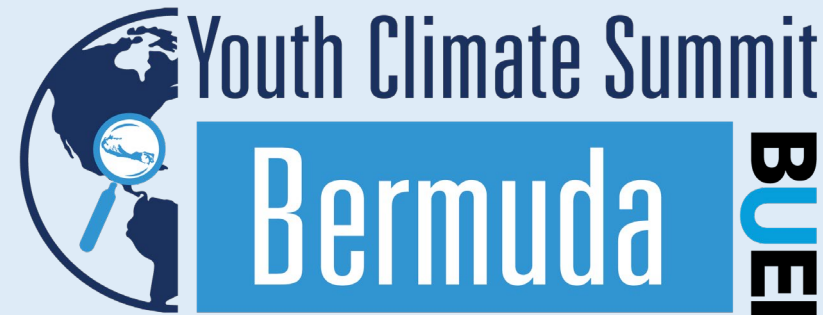
What role do businesses play in tackling environmental issues?



POST-Showcase: What role do businesses play in tackling environmental issues?



Environmental Showcase: Impact & Outcomes



Environmental Showcase NGO's

Friday, November 17th

Purpose: Your Turn Your Voice!

- **115 Participants in attendance***
- New cohort of participants joined like-minded peers to:
 - Voice their vision for their future and
 - Identify climate actions and initiatives they could undertake to help secure their vision.
- Special break-out sessions were held for YCS Alumni and Bermuda College students.

**Middle school delegates are capped at a reduced number, BCCL students registered for the first 4 days only.*

- 1) Exclusive invitation for YCS Alumni participants
- 2) Bermudian Dr. Jeffrey Steynor speaking on the transition to renewable energy during the opening session.
- 3) Dr. Steynor also presented during a special Breakout Session for Bermuda College Environmental Sustainability Students.

You're Invited!
Youth Climate Summit 2023
Exclusive Alumni Activities & Working Sessions

Thank you for all that you've done to help Bermuda address the climate impact since attending the Youth Climate Summit. We hope you're as proud of your contributions as we are!

To recognize and celebrate your contributions, and to help take your activism to the next level, please join us for the following exclusive YCS Alumni Activities taking place in November:

15 Environmental Showcase Opening Reception
November 5pm - 7pm | The Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI)
You and a guest are invited to attend this event to recognize and celebrate your contributions over the past year! You will also join our environmental and corporate partners for a preview of the Environmental Showcase before it opens on Thursday morning and enjoy the presentation from a special guest speaker (refreshments provided).

16 YCS Alumni Working Sessions
November 9am - 1:30pm | The Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI)
Come and share your insights with your fellow local YCS activists!
In the AM, your work in the area of Climate Justice, Conservation and Sustainability will be captured by Kimberly Frier through graphic recordings and illustrations. After a citizens' lunch, you'll be joined by our visiting international activists: Jwanice Henry, Ella Gökçügülen, and Buddhi Patel.
They are looking forward to help ensure you're connected to other young people around the globe committed to addressing the climate crisis. We will provide the necessary documentation for your school. Lunch will be provided.

17 YCS Alumni Presentations
November 8:30am - 2:30pm | The Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI)
Present the work done during Friday's morning session to the new Youth Climate Summit participants! As those attending for the first time assemble to determine what areas they want Bermuda to focus on and where they want to make a difference, they'll want to hear from you. Each track, Climate Justice, Conservation and Sustainability will benefit from learning about your experiences first hand. Lunch included.

18 Youth Activists in Action Projects
November 9am - 11am | Coopers Island Nature Reserve Clean Up
All Summit participants are invited to take part in ensuring this pristine area of Bermuda remains that way. Refreshments provided.

Please confirm your ability to participate in any/all of the above sessions **HERE** no later than Friday, November 10th.
We look forward to recognising and celebrating all you've done to help Bermuda.

Or Scan the QR Code

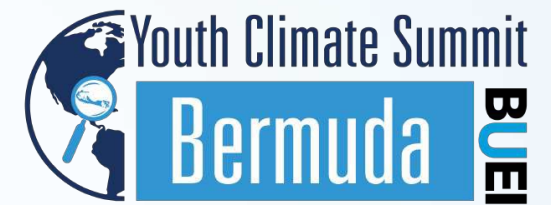
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BDA College Special Session 1.30-3pm Agenda

Welcome
Myles Darrell, BNT
Dr. Jeffery Stayner
Youth Activists Roundtable
Muuvement Platform presentation
Saturday YCS project sign-up

Facilitator: Noelle Young

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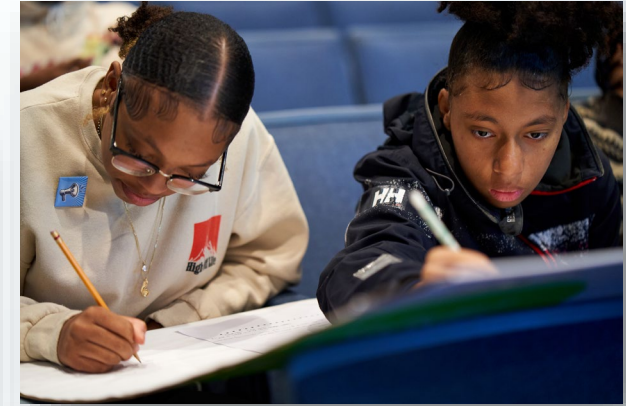


Your Turn Your Voice



What climate initiative would you carry out with your peers?

What would this accomplish?



Your Turn Your Voice



Sustainability



Climate Justice



Conservation



I chose to participate in YCS because I knew it'd be a good opportunity to meet people who care about the environment as much as me and I'm hoping to take away knowledge and understanding from what I've heard from this past week.

I like being able to interact with students from different schools.

Committed to Action



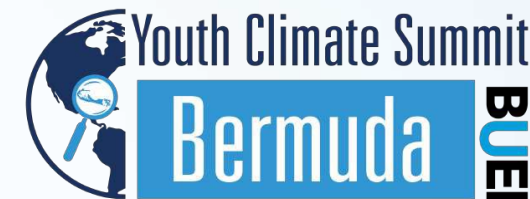
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Exclusive Partner Invitation

Meet our visiting Youth Activists during the Environmental Showcase
Thursday, November 16th BUEI Butterfield Gallery, Lower Level



Jevanic Henry (10:45am to 11:15am)

Jevanic Henry, 26, a climate activist and development professional from the Caribbean Island of Saint Lucia, was appointed to the second cohort of the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change by The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, on 16 March 2023. The group of seven young leaders brings diversity of experiences, backgrounds, and areas of climate expertise to assist in collaborating with global youth climate movements to bring young people's perspectives and solutions to the Secretary-General and major climate decision-making meetings. In 2021, Jevanic was selected as a United Nations Foundation Next Generation Fellow, tasked by the Secretary-General with implementing a process that allowed young people to help shape the future. The Fellows consulted with and collated the proposals of hundreds of young people from around the world into the Our Future Agenda report. Many of these ideas went on to be included in the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda report – which looks ahead to the next 25 years and represents his vision on the future of global cooperation. In 2020, he served on Restless Development's first ever 'Youth Power Panel', comprising 12 young leaders from across the world championing youth-led action towards attainment of the global goals.

Our Common Agenda report – which looks ahead to the next 25 years and represents his vision on the future of global cooperation. In 2020, he served on Restless Development's first ever 'Youth Power Panel', comprising 12 young leaders from across the world championing youth-led action towards attainment of the global goals.

Jevanic will share his work in creating sustainable funding opportunities for small island nations.



Ela Gökçigdem (12:15pm to 12:45pm)

Ela is an advocate for ocean-based climate solutions and has represented numerous organizations at various United Nations Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations and conferences. Her latest venture, Bloom, is a clean-tech startup which specializes in small-scale algal mitigation systems for the coastal villages of Turkey. Bloom currently has a functional prototype and is spearheading research on a global scale regarding algal mucilage conversion and the connection with global biodiversity credits and blue (ocean) credits. Bloom has won first place at the Monaco Ocean Protection Challenge and awarded Ela as the 'European Entrepreneur of the Year' at the 2023 YouthStart Entrepreneurship Competition. She serves as a member of EarthEcho International's Youth Council and as the Director of Finance for the youth-led climate organization Zero Hour. Representing

Turkey on the Sustainable Ocean Alliance's Youth Policy Advisory Council, Ela seeks to elevate the voices of marginalized coastal communities on a large scale through business, economics, and advocacy.

Ela will share the impact Bloom has had on the coastal villages of Turkey.



Bodhi Patil (1:45pm to 2:15pm)

Bodhi is an UN-recognized, award-winning GenZ ocean-climate "Solutionist" dedicated to improving the interconnectedness between ocean health and human health. As the founder of Inner Light, co-creator of @oceanuprise, co-founder of Sea Dragon Studios – One World Breath, co-winner of the UN Oceans Conference Youth & Innovation Forum, and United Nations esteemed young leader, Bodhi supports young people to create impact at scale. He is a Youth Advisor for OnDeck Fisheries AI, World Ocean Day, and Break Free from Plastic Pollution. He is actively working on a Meaningful Youth Ocean-Climate Action strategy with various UN constituencies, UN Global Compact and youth partners. He is a second-year student in the BA + Masters of Management program at the University of British Columbia

studying oceans, climate action, and business. Bodhi has been featured by the United Nations, Forbes, Economist Impact, Wildlife Conservation Society, Oceanic Global, and has presented to world leaders at over 10 global climate conferences.

Bodhi will share the highlights from his 2023 outreach across the globe.

Refreshments will be served prior to Bodhi's presentation.

Our guest youth activists will share an overview of their work and its international impact, while providing personal insight on effective ways to engage young people in the climate discussion.

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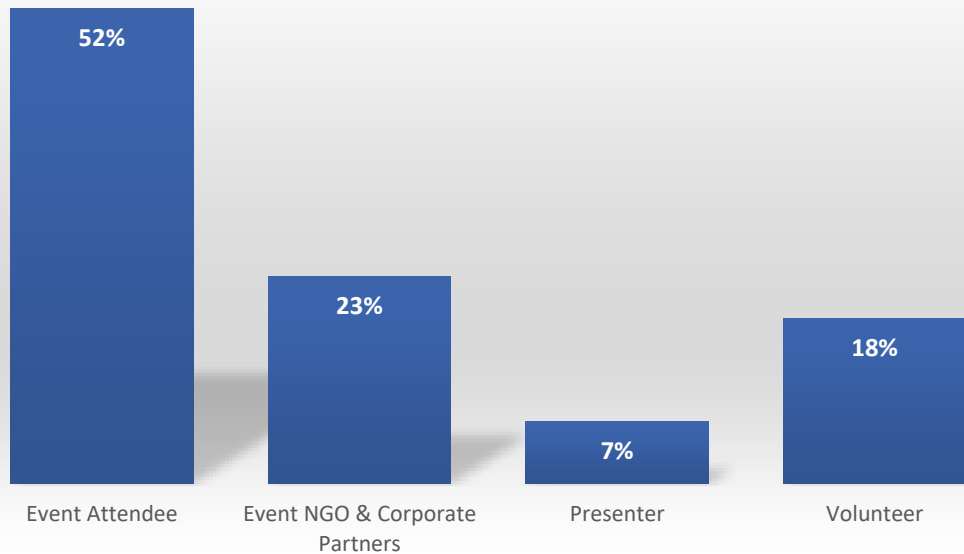
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Guest Activist Presentations

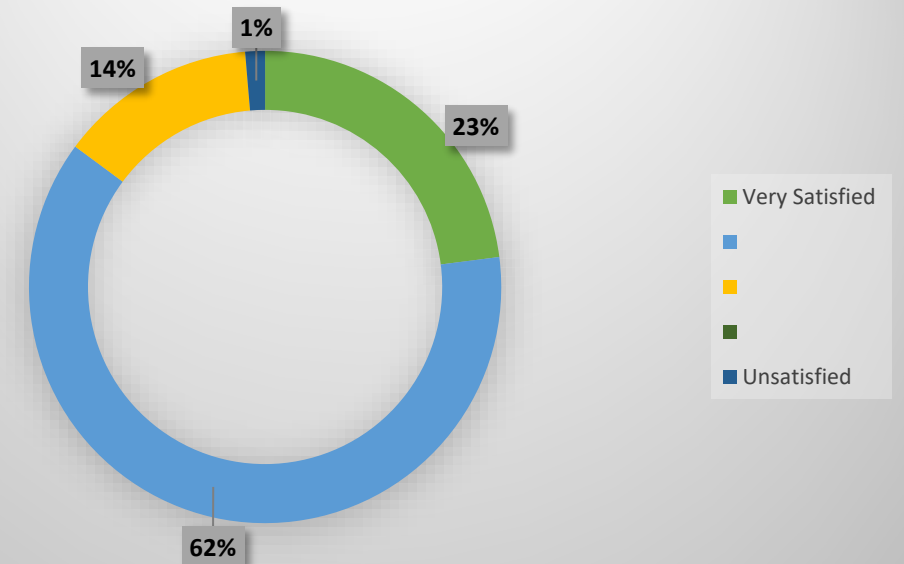
Post-Summit Survey Results



Post-Survey Respondents

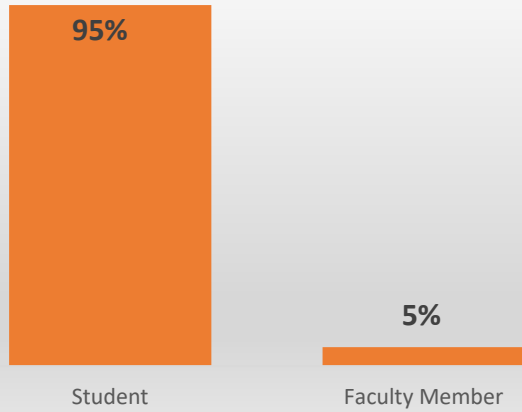


What is your level of satisfaction for the Youth Climate Summit?



Post Summit Survey

How did you participate in the event?



What element of the event did you like most?

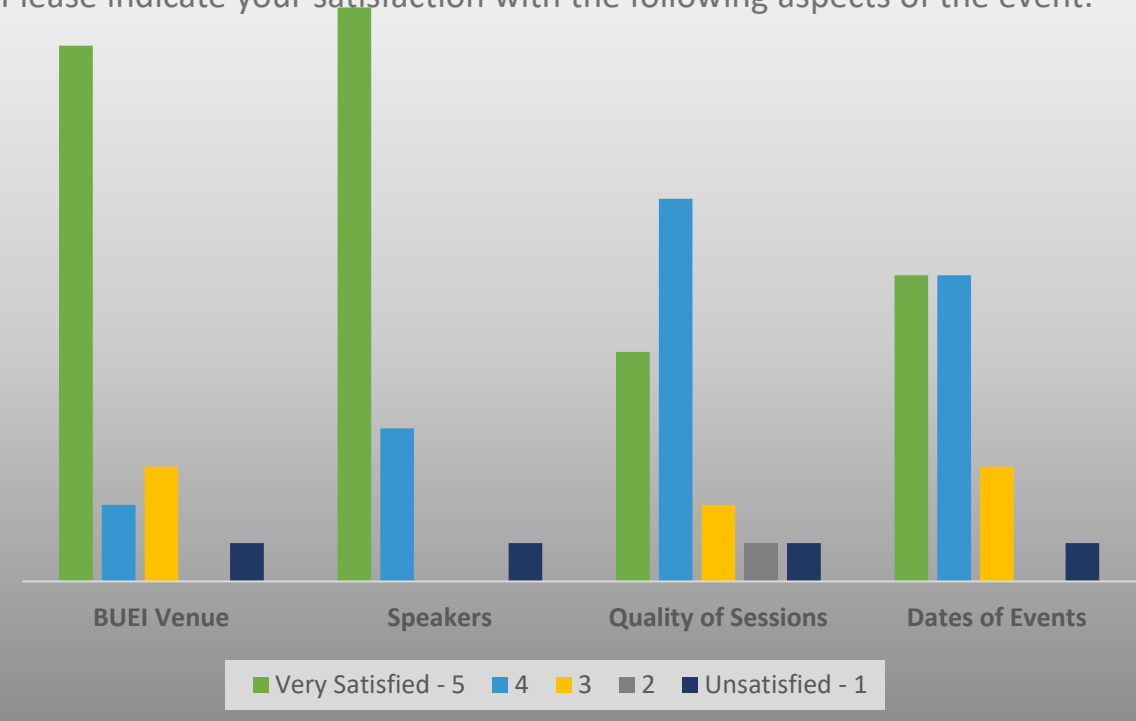
Working together in groups and being able to discuss our ideas with other people who have similar wants for us (for the planet/earth and our communities)

How we got to split into different categories and do different hands-on projects.

I loved communicating with activists and scientists who had the same goal as the youth and took the youth seriously with their ideas of how to help.

I mostly enjoyed when we broke up into smaller groups to talk about conservation, sustainability and climate justice.

Please indicate your satisfaction with the following aspects of the event:



Post Summit Feedback – Student Attendees

Why did you choose to participate in the Youth Climate Summit?

I participated because I wanted to learn, and I got to learn and became aware in return

I'm an alumni and i loved the experience so i decided to come back

As a prefect for Sandys, I was selected and I wanted to learn more about the eco system.

I participated to expand my horizon, and I have taken away new knowledge about the overall environment of Bermuda

I'm going off to university abroad soon and I feel that I haven't really done enough for my community while I've been here, so I plan on using this information to help while I'm still on island.

I chose to participate in YCS because I knew it'd be a good opportunity to meet people who care about the environment as much as me and I'm hoping to take away knowledge and understanding from what I've heard from this past week.

This is my third year in the climate summit, and I did it again because I love it. I am hoping to continue to make an impact this year and learn even more about the environment and what I can do.

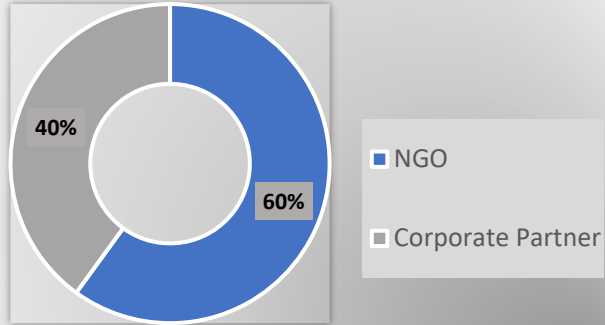
I chose to do it because I wanted to learn more about sustainability and see how many young people are passionate about the environment and how that the climate changing is a big problem.

I chose to participate in YCS this year to get more involved within my community and to show that I care. When I was younger, I was really involved with learning and educating others about climate change (my favorite activist was Greta Thunberg) but however lost that interest, as it wasn't discussed enough to remain interesting, and it became "weird" to care about climate change as I got older. I was hoping to learn more about the current climate and what other people are doing for it to see if I could help in any way. I participated to expand my horizon, and I have taken away new knowledge about the overall environment of Bermuda



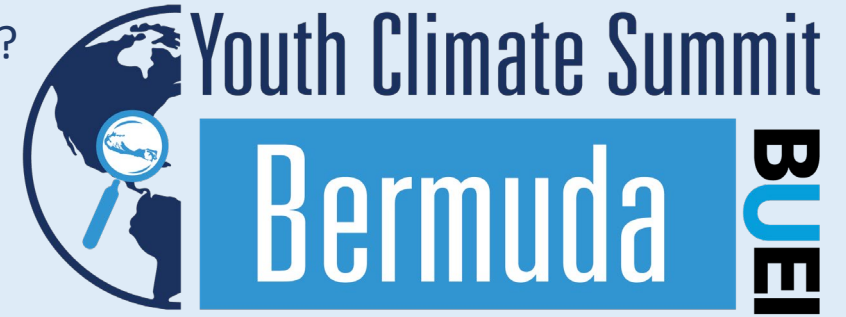
Post Summit Reflections – Student Attendees

How did you participate in the event?



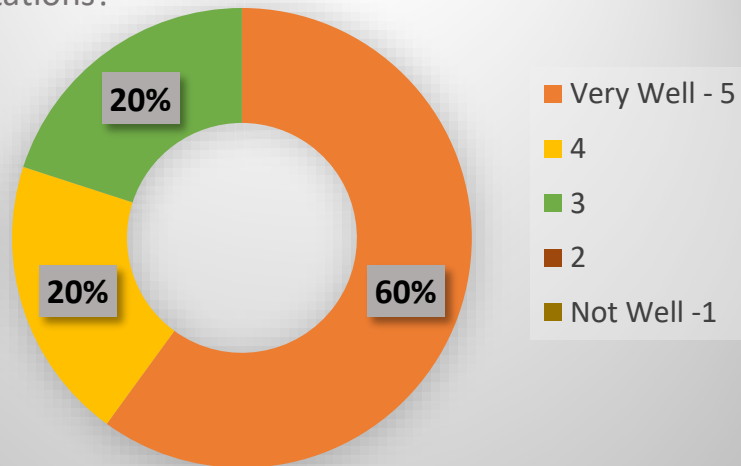
What element of the event did you like most?

Meeting the students and the presentation by the young visiting activists (the schedule allowed attendance at the stalls and presence at the presentations this year).

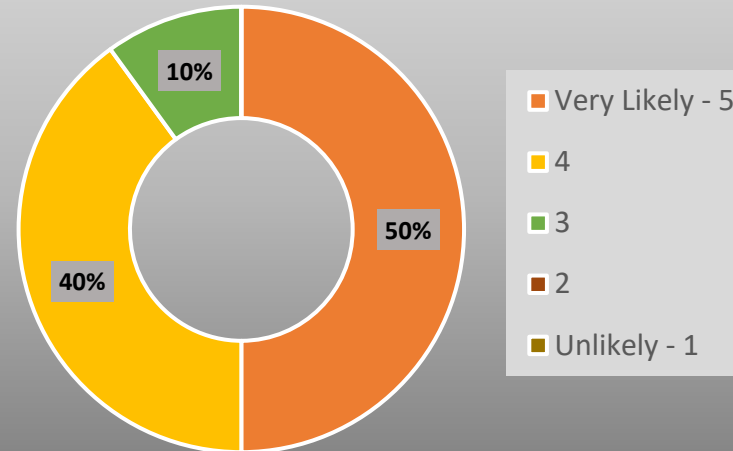


Loved the new format - shorter day for the students and better for the partners as well. The visiting students are amazing. So inspiring. We also got a lot from the event chatting with the other partners and seeing what everyone is working on.

How well did the Youth Climate Summit meet your expectations?



How likely are you to participate in next year's summit?



Great to see young people involved in the discussion around climate change and have tangible ways to make a positive difference through the NGOs

Interacting with school kids about Bermuda's environment, how we impact it, and how we can help, was the best part for me. The guest lecturers were also great!

Post Summit Feedback - NGOs & Partners

Please share your thoughts on the Youth Climate Summit as a whole.

Wonderful way to knowledge share and get in touch with the next generation of leaders.

I feel we are duty bound to attend. We do not get involved past the conference unless we take on a project ourselves, rather than through BUEI. We get no funding from BUEI to participate in the extended programme.

Another great event. Well organised as always. Wonderful to listen to the visiting speakers, inspiring!

The event was great! I'm glad the other tables focused less on "swag" to be given to the kids, which I found to be quite distracting in previous years. I felt each table focused more on their respective goals and messages, which served as the true takeaway for the kids, as opposed to physical giveaways.



Great to see young people involved in the discussion around climate change and have tangible ways to make a positive difference through the NGOs

Ban all free goods - bad for environment, give out the wrong message and are a huge disadvantage to stall holders that don't have them, as the kids just gravitate towards those tables.

We were very impressed with the overall content and initiative.

This is always great to see youth wanting to be part and be inspired by this issue.

Post Summit Reflections - Partners

Links to 2023 Summit content, event photos and videos.

- Virtual Presentations can be viewed [here](#). *Link under each presenter.*
- Opening Reception highlight reel can be viewed [here](#). *Reel features both Thursday and Friday*
- Onsite video highlight reel can be viewed [here](#).
- Onsite photo gallery can be viewed [here](#).
- YCS media coverage can be viewed [here](#).

Youth Climate Summit
Returns the week of November 18, 2024
Mark your calendar!

Links to 2022 Post-Summit Alumni activity

- View latest YCS Climate Action Report viewed [here](#).
- Highlights of YCS Alumni activity over the past year can be viewed [here](#).



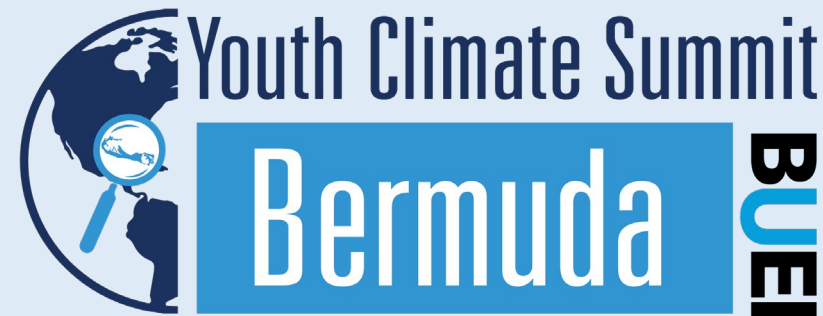
Recognition & Thanks



Thanks for putting on a GREAT Summit!
Student participant.



XL Insurance
Reinsurance



RenaissanceRe

Deloitte.



CHUBB



Hamilton Princess Hotel

BELCO

Bermuda Tourism Authority

Convex Insurance

ABIR

Lancashire Group

Argo Limited

Bermuda Development Agency

QBE Insurance Group

Lindo's Family Foods

KPMG

BUEI partners with organizations who share a similar vision for Bermuda – where the Island's youth and young adults have a strong connection to the environment and imagine themselves as future business owners, community leaders and environmental advocates.

We extend our sincere thanks to all Youth Climate Summit Partners for providing the necessary funding to underpin its success, for their thoughtful input throughout the event, and for their generous sharing of time and resources to engage with participants.

Thank you to our 2023 Partners

Through BUEI's Youth Climate Summit, Bermuda's youth are being empowered to become advocates, educators, and leaders in environmental conservation.

Our commitment to fostering a strong connection between young people and the environment is shared by our partner organizations, corporate sponsors, and countless community organizations.

Together, we are working towards a future where Bermuda's youth not only have a voice but also the confidence and tools to make a real difference in our world.

We thank all for their participation and support.

Thank You