

## **Public Policy and Biofuels: Energy, Environment and Food Trilemma**

First of all I want to mention that Ukraine is an Agricultural country. We are in top ten production countries of grains, potato, honey and walnuts. But also we are in top 10 waste production countries.

For the last 5 years I teach and make research in the field of renewable energy. Last year together with my colleagues we started to work on the research of turning agricultural waste into energy.

The importance of this topic is that agriculture produces enormous amount of waste. In fact, waste is only waste if we waste it. If we turn waste into energy it becomes a valuable resource.

Manure, straw, agricultural residues is only part of the waste than can be converted into biofuels.

Why agricultural waste can be dangerous? It can pollute soil and ground water, causes unpleasant odor, methane emissions into atmosphere and is harmful for the environment in case it is burnt.

Nowadays alternative fuels are getting more and more popular, but they have some pros and cons. For example such biofuels as bioethanol and biodiesel are produced from the feedstock that could be used for food needs.

In the opposite, manure, plant residues are waste only until they are converted into biofuels.

I had the opportunity to study the possibilities of producing biogas in the US, Germany, China and India. All these countries are very successful in this field. Considering the lack of energy resources, their constantly growing prices and ecological pollution from big farms, recycling of agricultural waste is the need of the XXI centuries.

The only thing we can't recycle is wasted time. Tons of wastes are polluting grounds, seas and waters causing ecological disasters. Governments should pay more attention into such opportunity as producing energy from agricultural waste. Legal and tax incentives should be provided in order to boost the recycling of waste. The important step it to encourage collaboration between scientists, waste suppliers and energy producers. And also to involve youth into environmental projects and promote this actions in social media.

Now at our university farm we have started to build an experimental biogas digester that would be able to process all types of agricultural residues and turn it into energy. We managed to combine finances from the government and private companies in order to investigate this issue and to find the best solution for business and environment.

We should stop living on our planet as we have another one to go. We don't. Life of future generations depends on us. When we throw something we should always remember, that there is no such thing as "away". When we throw anything away, it must go somewhere.

# Youth Ideas to Protect the Environment

**Session Name:** Youth Ideas to Protect the Environment

**Format:** Fireside Chat

**Date:** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019

**Time:** 12:30 - 14:30

**Venue:** Aswan Hall



Moderator

Ms. Pasant Emad

Host / Anchor, Egypt



# Mr. Jaime Ferrer

Co-Founder, Autotraffic SA de CV & Biomitech  
SAPI de CV  
Mexico

An expert in road safety, urban and environmental mobility. Jaime Ferrer is an advisor to the “Banca Pública Nacional Financiera” . His vision and experience led him to be a founding partner of several companies, among which are Vixonere, CityEs, AV Prestige, also highlighting Autotraffic and Biomitech.



## Ms. Isabela Battistello Espíndola

Environmental Researcher, Political Geography  
and the Environment Research Group  
Brazil

Has is Bachelor in International Relations and Economics, and master in Environmental Sciences. PhD candidate at the University of Sao Paulo. Research areas include international relations, environmental issues, hydropolitics and transboundary cooperation, with a long-standing personal interest in human rights, sustainable development and environmental policy.



# Dr. Natalia Pryshliak

Associate Professor, Vinnytsia National Agrarian  
University  
Ukraine

Associate Professor at Vinnitsa National Agrarian University. Major research interests: entrepreneurship, sustainable development, globalization, renewable energy. Studied in China, the USA and India. Currently work on the research on a new concept of utilization agricultural waste and turning it into energy. Passionate about scuba diving, travelling and horseback riding.





# Mr. Olumide Idowu

Environmentalism & Co-Founder, International  
Climate Change Development Initiative  
Nigeria

The co-founder of the International Climate Change Development Initiative (ICCDI Africa), Youth Lead Author Global Environmental Outlook (GEO6), Youth Foca Point for UNDP SGP Nigeria & Communication Director for African Youth Initiative on Climate Change



# Ms. Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti

Founder & President, Green Generation Initiative,  
Kenya

Founder of Green Generation Initiative and the fourth recipient of Wangari Maathai Scholarship Award. Elizabeth is also a Diana International award honoree and was also a regional finalist for Africa for the UN Young Champions of the earth 2019. She is a board member of the elephant neighbour's center, full member of the Greenbelt Movement and a youth council member of International Reserva - The Youth Land Trust.



# Ms. Miyoba Buumba,

Environmental Advocate  
Zambia

An environmental advocate, Lead Author of the UN Environment's GEO-6 for African Youths, UNLEASH Ambassador of Diversity for Zambia, Mandela Washington Fellow and works full time in wildlife conservation with WWF Zambia. Also she is a youth leader of Echo Change Zambia which conducts environmental awareness activities in schools and communities and has spearheaded the planting of 33,571 trees in Monze District of Zambia from January to March 2017.



# Ms. Lilly Platt

Founder Lillys Plastic Pickup and Youth  
Ambassador Plastic Pollution Coalition,  
Netherlands

Lilly is an international environmental champion. Youth Ambassador for Plastic Pollution Coalition, HOW Global, The Ship of Tolerance London 2019 & Youth Mundus. Lilly has recently been awarded Young Activist of the Year Award 2019 on International Day of Rights for the Child and has done her first Tedx talk.



# World Youth Forum

