



Youth Environment Council of SA: Where are they now?



Name: Pippa Williams

Years involved: 2003-08

Current role: Engineer, Hydro Tasmania

I work with Hydro Tasmania, a renewable energy generator, looking at long term strategies to support more sustainable renewable energy on the grid.

What was the most significant change that came from your involvement with the YEC?

I got to know a network of driven and thoughtful young people who shared my concerns, and an understanding of the political complexities of understanding change. I was involved with a number of other youth initiatives too, but this one was probably most useful in helping me realise the value of banding together with others and actually getting other people to take notice.

Why was this important?

In various conversations with real grown-ups, I realised I had something to bring to the table! I remember being in meetings with people much older and wiser, but realised that actually there was value in being able to listen and contribute in that context and take what I learned there back out to other young people.

What advice would you give to current and future members of the YEC?

Sometimes change can be slow and incremental, but it's worth the time and energy when part of a collaborative effort. Even in a learning phase you can still have influence- it can sometimes feel like things you are doing aren't making a difference, but social change needs thousands of points of influence.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

Only that understanding the impact you can have is broader than your own life. The scope of what you can achieve is not just planting trees, but much more than that.