



## Youth Environment Council of SA: Where are they now?



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**Years involved:** 2003-08, President 2004

**Current role:** NRM Education Officer, Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board

I work in the NRM Education team which now oversees the running of the YEC! This is just one of the things we do- we also run a school based young environmental leaders program, Professional Development for teachers, and work with schools and preschools to embed sustainability practises through meetings, resource development and support.

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

I was involved throughout high school and first year Uni, where I studied Environmental Policy and Management. The networks I formed in that time were a huge thing to come out of YEC for me- I became state convener of SASEN (SA Student Environment Network) and was invited to be a keynote speaker at an Australian Science Teachers Association conference. I also had the amazing opportunity to be part of the Greenpeace Youth Delegation at the Montreal Protocol in 2007.

On a school level, I was able to work with other YEC students to implement a school-based waste system at my high school, which was a significant achievement.

### **Why was this important?**

Through my involvement in the YEC and as President, and networking with lots of different people, I began to have a sense of those who were influential. Realising that the buck stops at your adult mentors, as a young person- that you need those people to listen to you- really stuck with me in how I work with young people now. I also came to understand the formal processes involved in taking action, through being part of the Executive group and meeting with the Minister. I saw that there were ways to get around resistance and other issues, and learned to be persistent.

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

There is something really satisfying and worthwhile in doing smaller projects at a school level. In hindsight I realised it was really valuable learning for me in terms of project management skills and communicating with other people to make things happen. It's easy to talk about the bigger things that happen, but it's the little things that are the building blocks for creating bigger change.

### **Is there anything else you would like to share?**

The YEC was instrumental for me in developing skills I now use every day without thinking about it. Skills like project management, communicating with others, problem solving and leadership. It was the first place I was invited to share my opinion and have this valued- and that has opened up so many other opportunities for me!