

# TGED

*TRIPLE GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION*

## APRIL NEWSLETTER

2026



Greening the Future Together-One Community at a Time.

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**Greening the Future Together. One Community at a Time.**



## From the Communication's Desk

*Dear Friends, Supporters, and Volunteers,*

The month of April didn't just pass, it told a story.

Across TGED Foundation's platforms, we recorded over **10,000** engagements, with nearly half of that driven from a single experience: **Trashion 2026**, which generated **5,047** total views across platforms.

On the surface, these look like numbers.

But for us, they point to something more important; ***what people pay attention to, and why.***

Everyday life is built on small habits.

We buy clothes, wear them a few times, and move on. We drink from plastic bottles, read newspapers, and then discard them without much thought.

What Trashion did was not to introduce a new problem. It made those everyday choices visible.

On **April 1** in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria, students of Divine Touch International School were asked to do something simple: rethink what they call "waste." Old clothes, newspapers, plastic bottles, and discarded materials, things usually meant for the bin.

But instead of seeing rubbish, they saw possibility.

They didn't just create outfits, they changed how they saw the materials themselves.

## *Continuation*

From the Communication standpoint, that shift matters.

Because people don't engage deeply with what they feel distant or abstract. They engage with what they feel familiar with. Everyone understands clothing, everyone understands waste.

Trashion connected these two in a way that didn't require heavy explanation, and that is why it resonated.

Across platforms, engagement didn't grow because the message was complex, it grew because it was clear, relatable and visible. It shows that climate communication does not always need to be louder or technical. Sometimes it needs to be closer to everyday life.

April offered a clear direction for us:

When storytelling connects daily habits to real world consequences, it stops being content.

**It becomes reflection.**

**And reflection is where change begins!**



**Laretta Ohotu'Owo Etta**

*Communication Officer,  
TGED Foundation*

# DID YOU KNOW?

**Ancient Water:** Every drop of water you drink has been recycled by the Earth for billions of years; you're technically drinking the same water as the dinosaurs.



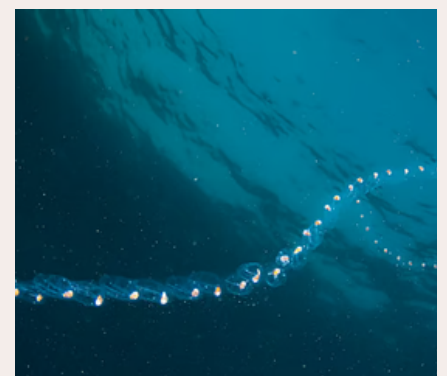
**The Petrichor Effect:** That "rain smell" we love in April is actually caused by soil-dwelling bacteria and plant oils reacting with water.

**Tree Communication:** Trees "talk" to each other through an underground fungal network nicknamed the "**Wood Wide Web.**"



**The Cooling Effect:** One large tree can provide the same cooling power as 10 room-sized air conditioners running for 20 hours a day.

**Oxygen Source:** While we love trees, over 50% of the world's oxygen is actually produced by plankton in the ocean.



## TRASHION 2026: WHEN WASTE BECAME A CLASSROOM



Think about the last time you cleared out your wardrobe. That worn-out shirt or those faded jeans, where do they go once they leave your hands?

Globally, we are drowning in fabric. The fashion industry churns out 92 million tonnes of waste every year, contributing nearly 10% of global carbon emissions. In Nigeria, this isn't just a statistic; it's a reality we see in our clogged gutters, the smoke from burning dumpsites, and the flash floods that sweep through our streets. We are raising a generation in a "buy and discard" culture, but what if waste could tell a different story?

That question sat at the center of a simple but intentional collaboration between TGED Foundation and Divine Touch International School, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria. The goal was clear: move environmental education beyond theory and into something students could touch, question, and create.

Students were asked to look at what they usually ignore: old clothes, sachet water nylons, plastic bottles, paper scraps. Not as waste, but as materials.

And so, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2026, a group of students in Ekiti State, Nigeria decided to weave a different story.

Over **100 secondary students**, alongside parents and stakeholders gathered at the unveiling of Trashion 2026 filled with curiosity and excitement as the **20 contestants** representing the five(5) houses of the Divine Touch International School took over the runway in their beautifully made trashion outfits. The Five houses created **20 unique outfits entirely from discarded materials**;

- Sachet nylons and plastic bottles.
- Bottle tops and straw.
- Papers, cartons and fabric scraps.



Each group stepped forward to explain to the spectators:

- Why they chose specific materials.
- How those materials relate to environmental problems.
- What their designs were trying to communicate.

It was no longer not a fashion display, it became a conversation around waste, consumption and responsibility.

The judging process went a little bit deeper. Students were asked questions on;

- Waste Management.
- Circular Economy.
- Sustainability.
- The relationship between fashion and the environment.

One of the Blue House contestants when asked the question, how the fashion industry contributes to environmental problems, confidently replied that, ***“the fashion industry produces a lot of carbon emissions during the production process, and when we throw our old clothes away, they add to landfill waste which are then burnt up. This in turn leads to the release of harmful gases in the atmosphere”***.

One parent, Mrs. Rita, captured the moment perfectly during an interview;  
***“transforming waste into fashion will not only make the environment clean, but it will also aid in employment opportunities.”***

Her insights reflects something bigger!  
 “Trashion is all about helping young people to see **waste as a resource**, and **creativity as a tool** for solving environmental problems.

Trashion is a reminder to all of us that when learning becomes practical, it sticks.

That when young people are trusted to experiment, they dont just participate, they take ownership.

And that sometimes, a simple idea like “Rethinking Waste” can open an entirely new ways of seeing the world. At end, the question is no longer what is waste, it is what can waste become?

Trashion 2026 is more than just an event. It is a new way of thinking. It is a simple idea that **“trash doesn’t have to stay trash”**.

Click on the link to read the media report:  
<https://tribuneonlineng.com/ekiti-school-students-transform-waste-materials-into-fashion-designs/>



### TRASHION IMPACT

- 100+ students engaged.
- 20 trashion outfits created.
- 5 school houses participated.
- Materials reused: nylons, plastics, textiles, paper.







# The "Eco-Genius" Quiz

1. How many liters of water are used to make one cotton T-shirt?  
**[A] 500 [B] 2,700 [C] 1,000**
2. Which of these is NOT biodegradable?  
**[A] Wool [B] Apple core [C] Cigarette filter**
3. What is the theme for Earth Day 2026?  
**[A] Planet vs. Plastics [B] Our Power Our Planet [C] Invest in Our Planet**
4. How much food produced globally goes to waste?  
**[A] 10% [B] 33% [C] 50%**
5. Which gas is the primary contributor to global warming?  
**[A] Nitrogen [B] Carbon Dioxide [C] Helium**

## Word Scramble

6. **T R O P I C E H R** (The rain smell) —
7. **L O S R A** (Energy from the sun) —
8. **M O S P O C T** (Organic recycling) —
9. **B I O D E I V R S I T Y** (Nature's variety) —
10. **W S T E D A R H E D** (Water area) —

## The "Eco-Riddle"

11. I have many needles but cannot sew. I have a trunk but no clothes. What am I?
12. I am as light as a feather, but even the strongest man cannot hold me for more than a few minutes. What am I?
13. I am white when I am dirty, and black when I am clean. What am I?
14. I fall but never get hurt; I pour but have no cup. What am I?



## Intern Spotlight

### Introducing Oludipe Kehinde

**At TGED Foundation, our work is strengthened by volunteers/Interns who bring their skills, passion, and creativity into everything we do. Oludipe Kehinde is one of those individuals whose diverse talents and commitment continue to add value to our mission. Here's a glimpse into who she is and her experience with TGED Foundation during her internship days.**

- **Can you tell us a little about yourself?**

My name is Oludipe Kehinde. I am an Agriculturist and Environmental Activist who believes the future of African communities depends on connecting grassroots realities to the decisions that define them. Currently pursuing a Master's degree in Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, I work closely with farmers and indigenous communities where I have seen firsthand how climate change disrupts livelihoods. That drives my commitment to climate advocacy, biodiversity, sustainable farming, reforestation, and conservation awareness in communities that often go unheard.

- **What motivated you to intern with TGED Foundation?**

Honestly, it started with one of TGED's climate walks I came across on X. Seeing the organization show up and bringing climate conversations to both young and old, running the Greener Minds initiative, and building capacity at the community level, I felt like this was exactly the kind of work I wanted to be part of. TGED's presence and commitment in Ekiti State stood out to me, and volunteering felt like a natural next step.

- **Can you share a memorable experience or highlight from your internship work?**

One that really stands out is facilitating TGED's Green Women Rising focus group in October 2025. It was a post-cohort evaluation bringing together women running green businesses across Africa, and honestly, showing up as the facilitator on that call was both exciting and nerve-wracking. It was my first time leading a conversation at that scale, and it pushed me in ways I didn't expect. I came out more confident, more intentional about how I listen, and more convinced about the importance of centering women's voices in environmental work.

- **How has interning with TGED Foundation impacted you personally and professionally?**



## Intern Spotlight

### Continuation

On a personal level, the internship stretched my social connections in ways I didn't expect. Working alongside a dedicated team of volunteers pushed me to show up differently, I became more intentional about how I build and maintain relationships with people. Professionally, the experience reinforced the value of teamwork and taught me what clear, purposeful organisational communication actually looks like in practice.

- **What skills or knowledge have you gained through your internship experience?**

Interning with TGED has given me more than I anticipated. It exposed me to participatory research and monitoring and evaluation, areas that have genuinely added to how I approach community work as an agriculturist. It also filled professional gaps I didn't know I had which include facilitation, communication, partnership building, and organization management.

- **What advice would you give to someone considering volunteering with TGED Foundation and what do you think sets us apart from others?**

My advice would be simple: come with an open mind and be ready to grow. TGED is not the kind of organization where you show up and watch from the sidelines. You are expected to contribute, and in doing that you discover capabilities you didn't know you had. The environment pushes you to be the best version of yourself as a volunteer.

What sets TGED apart, in my experience, is its genuine commitment to involving and empowering young people in environmental work. It doesn't just talk about youth engagement, it actually creates the space for it. That combination of purpose and intentionality is not something you find everywhere.

- **Is there anything you'd like to see our organization focus on in the future?**

Honestly, I would love to see TGED lean into social entrepreneurship. There are so many young people doing meaningful environmental and social impact work, but not always with the means to sustain themselves while doing it. If TGED could create pathways to equip those people with skills and tools to build livelihoods around their passion, I think that would be a game changer. The work thrives when the people behind it are also thriving.

# Catch-Up With Us

Missed Our April blog posts? No worries. Click the link to catch up with what you missed.

<https://tgedfoundation.org/blog/sustainable-fashion-and-circular-economy-rethinking-waste-in-nigerias-style-industry/>

<https://tgedfoundation.org/blog/nigerias-waste-crisis-what-the-data-really-tells-us/>

Also, read our latest Green Brief Newsletter here and subscribe:

<https://www.linkedin.com/build-relation/newsletter-follow/entityUrn=7421668258094665729>



**Incase you missed our March 2026 Newsletter**

We've got you covered. Click the link below to read the March edition.

<https://tgedfoundation.org/newsletters/march-2026-newsletter/>

## Opportunities to Explore

In the spirit of shared growth, we're highlighting a few opportunities that may be useful to members of our community.

1] Apply now: <https://climatelaunchpad.org/application-form/>

📌 Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

2.] Info: <https://climatereality.formtitan.com/ftproject/2026nashville?src=general>

📌 Deadline: 5th June 2026

**Thank  
you**

Because of your support, we are turning ideas into action; in schools, in communities, and in everyday lives.

We are ready to do more. Lets continue this journey together.

Join us. Support our cause.

Scan or click the link to donate.

<https://tgedfoundation.org/donate-now/>



***Greening the Future Together; One Community at a Time.***

# Stay in the Loop



Contact us for more information  
or any questions.

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