

## **BUGEMA UNIVERSITY GREEN CONSUMER WEEK: LESSONS AND EXPERIENCES IN ESD**

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) has done a great job in ensuring that institutions of higher learning in Uganda prioritize sustainable development through their mandate of teaching, research and community service.

Bugema University (BU) is among the many institutions of higher learning in Uganda that have benefited from NEMA's *Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainable Development Issues in University Academic and Non Academic Programmes* sensitization and capacity building programs. Owing to this sensitization program, Bugema University Administration was able to reinvigorate environment and sustainability activities by joining the rest of the world to commemorate Green Consumer Day that comes every 28<sup>th</sup> day of September every year. BU dedicated a week full of activities that included ecosystem restoration with more than 300 indigenous tree species planted on campus and forest reserve.



*BU Faculty, students and members of the community take part in ecosystem restoration during Bugema University Green Consumer Week*

During the green consumer week Bugema community attended a Public Lecture given by Mr. Ndawula Godfrey Assistant Commissioner for New Renewable Source of Energy in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development on the theme *Promoting Green Consumerism for Sustainable Development*. Key issues arising out of BUGCW Public Lecture

- Community was exposed to the role of bio-mass energy to the country's economy
- Bugema University was encouraged to put effort in conserving energy and also take steps to conduct an energy audit.
- The Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Bugema University Prof. R.T Mugerwa requested Mr. Ndawula to put more effort in supporting programs of private Universities and as much as possible provide them with technical support for renewable energy programs.
- Mr. Ndawula was able to know that Bugema University is in the process of establishing a Renewable Energy Learning Centre that will act as a teaching aid/lab for Students, staff and community on sustainable energy use and management.
- Bugema University improved Bio-gas Plant was appreciated
- Bugema University was encouraged to harvest sunrays for solar energy



*Students of Bugema University learning about how bio gas as a renewable source of energy works during the green consumer week*



The green consumer week can therefore serve a model for universities to engage the community in environmental sustainability but also use such initiatives as a platform for technological advancement and diffusion. Exhibitions for example a good way of sharing technology and bring it closer to the people.



At national and institutional level there is a lot of work to be done in embedding environmental sustainability principles in organizational frameworks and changing of lifestyles of many Ugandans to be in line with a green economy. It is important for institutions of higher learning to:

- Mainstream ESD in the university curricular.
- Institutions of higher learning should be in constant touch with key government agencies such as Climate Change Unit within MoW&E to provide guidance and resources in building frameworks for climate change management at institutional and community level
- University Departments at both Undergraduate and Post Graduate levels should conduct and encourage research in ESD and environmental sustainability

- NEMA on its part should encourage local universities to be part of global partnerships for ESD such GUPES, MESA and Global Sustainable Campus Networks (GSCN)
- Universities should be ready to work with all government units in line or closely related to green consumerism such NEMA, UNBS, UWA, NFA, NPA to generate ideas, projects and programs in line with environment and sustainable development that can benefit society.

*This information is generated from a soon to be published Bugema University Green Consumer Week Report in corroboration with NEMA*

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