

Our past winners and profiles: learn more about the top 5 African Youth Energy Innovators of 2018



First Place:
Matthew Wainwright,
South Africa, 33
Innovation: Digital Energy
Services

Matt is the CFO of Standard Microgrid, where he and the team are reimagining power with an innovative approach to distributed renewable energy services, based in Zambia, with offices in Johannesburg and Sacramento. It has pioneered a scalable model that combines value-based billing and community-centric operations to deliver modern renewable electricity. It transforms unelectrified communities with connected hyper-efficient smart grids that help grow local economies, improve education and healthcare.



Second Place:
Tichaona Matte, Zimbabwe, 25
Innovation: Green Kidney
Algae Biofuel & Wastewater
Treatment System

Tichaona Matte is a former Chinhoyi University of Technology BSc (Hons) Biotechnology student, who hails from the mountainous Zimbabwean city of Mutare. He is very passionate about clean and sustainable energy development in Zimbabwe, and Africa as a whole. He strongly believes in its role as an effective vehicle for poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa. Since leaving college in 2015, he founded Green Energy Technologies (GET) Pvt Ltd.



Third Place:
Kisseih Amartei, Ghana, 25
Innovation: Recycled plastic waste
in the build of portable multi-mount
vertical axis wind turbines

Amartei graduated from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. Living in Ghana, he is intimately aware, not only of global issues such as climate change, but also of local ones related to waste management and energy. In seeking to play a part in addressing these issues, his guiding principles have been sustainability and accessibility. He currently proposes the Kissvawt, a portable vertical axis wind turbine with ergonomic enhancements.



Finalist:
John Magiro, Kenya, 25
Innovation: Provision of
off-grid power to rural
households

Born in a poor family in Kenya, John could not further his education after secondary school. Having been interested in electronics from an early age, and witnessing the strain that the dependency on fossil fuels brought to his people, he decided to bring light to his village. Even though he did not perform well in school he has amazed his community by using simple scrap materials to produce hydro-electric power. This led to the birth of Magiro Hydro Electricity Limited. At 25, he currently supplies 350 households with electricity. He has dreams of lighting his whole country.



Finalist:
Glory Nkiruka Esse,
Nigeria, 34
Innovation: Powerstove

Glory is a budding entrepreneur. She grew up watching her father's exploits in business and decided to follow him into manufacturing. While traveling to a village, she discovered an increase in smoke-related deaths among women and children, in a community where more than 90% of households cook on open fires. She decided to tackle the problem by innovating a smokeless clean cook stove called the Powerstove. Glory attended several entrepreneurial courses from the African Management Institute and PanAtlantic University to ensure she builds a sustainable business empire.

