



# Living Earth Expo

## Talks 2025

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# Introduction

**Headline: Provoke, Educate, Inspire, Connect**

The Living Earth Expo 2025 in Windhoek is a community innovation festival aimed at bringing together individuals passionate about a good, clean, healthy and abundant future for all in Namibia.

The talks aim to inspire visitors about the range of topics relevant in the five key themes, **Water, Food, Shelter, Energy and Coordination.**

## Trailblazer Talks

This year **we focus on telling stories that help bring the topics closer to everyday people.** It's not focussed on expert discussions. Rather we want to entertain, enlighten and inspire the general public of topics that are typically hidden from our TV's and supermarket aisles.

Each of the five key topics is explored by a panel of 4-5 speakers and one moderator for about one hour.

## Knowledge Drops

Additionally, Exhibitors have the opportunity to hold talks at their stands on the hour every hour...with a fixed [Program](#). We call these **"Knowledge Drops: Quick, powerful bursts of wisdom, demonstrations, and discussions at exhibitor stalls"**

## Key Contacts

**Coordinator:** Caren Jakubaschk. Whatsapp - +264 813787535

**Videographer:** Sky Roacle +264 852797952

# Talk Venue

The talks will be held in the School Hall (at DagBreek, right in the middle of the Expo, shown in Red below).



## Trailblazer Talks

### Food - Friday 14h00 - 15h30 → Opening & Inspiring Stories on

### Food 🍏🌱

The **Food Talks** at the Living Earth Expo will showcase inspiring stories of how food can be grown by anyone, regardless of resources, using minimal water and space—whether on a small backyard plot or at a larger commercial scale.

These sessions will explore **food security, small high-intensity farms, and local organic production**, setting the tone for sustainability-focused, solutions-driven discussions. Speakers will include **entrepreneurs** who have successfully built **sustainable and profitable** food ventures, demonstrating both small-scale success, and a commercial producer illustrating the potential of larger, investment-backed models.

The sessions will also highlight **innovative methods like food forests**, showing how diverse, regenerative systems can thrive in even the smallest spaces and adverse situations.

**Moderator: Mareike Voigts (Namibian Organics Association/Krumhuk Biodynamic Farm)**

#### Lineup:

- ☐ **Roland Frutig - Agroforestry (10 min):** Possibilities for arid countries
- ☐ **Hanjo Lühl - Food Forest example Namibia (5 min):** <https://www.aywaforestfarm.com/>
- ☐ **Eckhart Förtsch - Hoachanas Project (5 min):** Successfully teaching an impoverished town to grow food in gardens
- ☐ **Elisia Gottlieb - AgriPixel (5 min):** Going green through food waste: Converting food waste to animal feed
- ☐ **Rikus Grobler and Stephan Eins/ Temapo Negongo - Plot 2 Plate (5 min):** Pilot Project Launch

## Water - Friday 16h00 - 17h30 → Inspiring stories on Water 💧

The **Water Talks** at the Living Earth Expo will dive into practical, real-world solutions for **water scarcity, greywater food circles, and integrated water management**, following naturally from the discussions on food. These sessions will focus on **how individuals, communities, and businesses can harvest, manage, and reuse water effectively**, making every drop count in Namibia's arid climate. Speakers will explore **water harvesting techniques**—from simple, affordable methods for private households to larger-scale public solutions that can transform landscapes. Attendees will learn how **greywater can be repurposed for food production**, how integrated systems can improve resilience, and what everyday people can do to secure their own water future. By sharing **innovative, accessible, and proven strategies**, these talks will empower individuals to take action, ensuring that water is not just conserved but actively harnessed as a driver of sustainability and regeneration.

**Moderator: Temapo Negongo**

### Lineup:

- ☐ **Brenda Knoesen:** How Biochar can be used to increase water storage in poor soils (such as those of the North where swales and half circles don't work - much like our Namibian version of Terra Preta).
- ☐ **Dr Roy Miller - SAUMA:** SAUMA fights to keep groundwater clean in most of Southern Namibia. Mining Pollution is the biggest threat to our most important aquifer and thus to farming.
- ☐ **Ina Wilkie - Kambashu Institute:** Showcasing success stories from informal settlements - use of greywater food circles, greywater tower and dry toilets.
- ☐ **Danou van Rensburg - Permaculture Otjiwarongo "Food Forest Namibia Youtube Channel":** How to capture rainwater on a landscape scale with swales and "African Smiles" - showing result; rainwater harvesting and greywater systems in a township.

## Energy - Saturday 09h30 - 11h00 → Energy Talk ⚡☀️

The **Energy Talks** at the Living Earth Expo will provide a clear and actionable roadmap to **affordable, off-grid power solutions**, focusing on **solar home systems and sustainable energy options**.

As an early session, it will take advantage of fresh minds to **demystify solar energy** and prove that **the solutions are already available and within reach for everyone**—whether through **buying a solar system for a home or leasing a smaller setup for basic needs**. The discussion will highlight how **solar is not only more cost-effective over time but also more reliable**, reducing vulnerability to power outages.

Importantly, the session will emphasize how the transition to **renewable energy creates jobs**, supporting local economies and energy independence. The format will be **practical and solution-driven**, potentially serving as a **step-by-step guide** to going solar, empowering attendees to take real action.

To encourage immediate engagement, the session can also direct visitors to **stalls at the Expo where they can explore solar products and financing options**—making sustainable energy a **real, tangible choice, not just an idea**.

**Moderator:** Harald Schütt

### Lineup:

- ☐ **Harald Schuett - Intro to the topic (3min):**
- ☐ **Feris Joseph and Immo Böhm - Olusheno:** Demonstrate a solar home system and share stories of how Olusheno has tens of thousands of customers and built a network of dealers who all benefit from these solutions and the sales model.
- ☐ **Harald Schütt - Cooking:** Solar ovens - practical example (QR code/ link to webpage/ put on Immo's Wiki)
- ☐ **Penny Noah - Pell Cook:** Pellet Wood stoves; how urban low income customers benefit from changing to a pellet, away from Natural gas.
- ☐ **Immo Böhm and Conrad Roedern - Electric Vehicles:** Electric cars/quads/ bikes currently on offer in Namibia and what is coming up; benefits of EV's
- ☐ **Kobus Viljoen - K Electrical:** Actual savings/ ROI when switching to solar power for a municipal account; domestic solar/ battery solutions and the benefits.

## Shelter - Saturday 11h00 - 12h30 → Shelter Talk

The **Shelter Talks** at the Living Earth Expo will introduce attendees to **practical, affordable, and sustainable housing solutions**, focusing on **natural building, urban planning, and intentional communities**.

These discussions will highlight how **local materials, smart design, and regenerative building methods** can create homes that are **affordable, climate-resilient, and comfortable**. Whether for **rural homesteads or urban housing**, the session will showcase techniques such as **sandbag, strawbale, and compressed earth block construction**, alongside **passive cooling, tree windbreaks, and energy-efficient design**.

Beyond individual homes, the talks will explore **better urban planning and intentional community models** that foster **stronger local economies, reduced crime, and more sustainable living environments**, while being a vehicle to afford land ownership to the landless, especially in cities.

Attendees will leave with a **clear understanding of their options**, whether they are looking to **build a home, improve an existing one, or rethink how communities can be designed for resilience and well-being**.

**Moderator: Nadine Krötz (Green Building Council Namibia)**

**Line up:**

- ☐ **Una Stuurmann - Architect:** Sustainable building design in Namibia, social impact projects
- ☐ **Elizabeth Amakali - Shack Dwellers Association:** community-based network of housing saving schemes, aiming to improve the living conditions of urban and rural poor, while promoting women's participation.
- ☐ **Quintin Hartung - Gondwana:** Practicable examples of sustainable building/ use of sustainable material
- ☐ **Natache lilonga - Architect:** Urban town planning/ design, Shade project - creating shade in the city with recycled material

**Nina Maritz (Architect)** will join the audience and engage the speakers.

## Coordination - Saturday 12h30 - 14h00 → Coordination (Governance) Talk & Closing

The **Coordination Talks** at the Living Earth Expo will serve as a powerful closing session, tying together the themes of **food, water, energy, and shelter** into a bigger picture of **implementation, regenerative communities, and self-organising systems**.

This discussion will move beyond ideas into **actionable strategies**, exploring how individuals, communities, and organisations can work together to **build resilient, self-sustaining networks**. Attendees will gain insights into **governance models that empower local decision-making, cooperative structures, and ways to mobilise resources effectively**.

The session will highlight **real-world examples of regenerative communities**, showcasing how shared infrastructure, participatory leadership, and circular economies can **transform regions from fragile to flourishing**.

By the end, the audience will be **inspired to collaborate, connect, and take concrete steps toward building a Living Earth—where sustainability isn't just an idea, but a lived reality**.

**MC: Eckhart Förtsch**

### Lineup:

- ☐ **Stephan Brückner - Wolvedans:** RuralRevive - desert based economy.
- ☐ **Lilly Mareka Muronga - NANCi:** NANCi is the Namibian Network of the Cosmetics Industry, that is both the health and beauty industry in Namibia. The network combines the interests of raw material suppliers, ingredient producers, end-product manufacturers as well as support and governance service providers.
- ☐ **Will Ruddick - Grassroots Economics (Kenya - joins remotely):** Mweria and Community currencies in Kenya and Europe and his new book. Freely [available on Substack](#).
- ☐ **Immo Böhm - Living Earth Movement:** Launch of Living Earth <https://living-earth.africa/>.

## Event Conclusion

The event will officially conclude with the Coordination talks.