

MEDIA RELEASE

LOCAL YOUTH CONGRESS FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

25 October 2011

A Youth Congress is to be held on Sydney's Northern Beaches over 3 days between 29th November and 1st December 2011, to focus on local and international environmental concerns and how we can make a positive difference to our world together. 'Youth Leading The World' is an initiative of OzGreen, working in partnership with SHOROC councils Manly, Mosman, Pittwater & Warringah and is being organised by young local residents.

The annual youth congress is conducted simultaneously in multiple locations around the globe and is connected by digital media streams including facebook and twitter. It aims to accelerate the shift to fair futures by building a movement of inspired and informed young leaders to change the world one community at a time.

Over the course of the three days, the youth delegates will learn about local and global sustainability challenges, brainstorm ideas on their hopes for a better future and how to integrate sustainability ideas into their everyday lives, the local community and the global community.

On the last day of the Congress a 'Community Forum' will be run by local youth, to provide an opportunity for government, local business, parents, teachers, principals and families to engage with the young people of the SHOROC region and hear some of their ideas and plans and to offer support to make it happen.

"It's great to see young leaders in our community taking action to create a more sustainable future" Ben Taylor, Executive Director of SHOROC said. "The SHOROC councils are very pleased to support this innovative youth event in our region" said Ben.

OzGreen, the Australian organisation behind the event, piloted a national event in 2009 with 500 participants in 7 locations. In 2010, it grew into a global event in collaboration with over 100 local and regional organisations bringing together thousands of young people in 18 locations around the world and attracting over 60,000 post views on facebook. In 2011 over 30 locations will be involved.

Sydney Youth Climate Action (SYCAN) is supporting of the event and Jaden Harris one of the local event facilitators is co-founder of SYCAN, an initiative that was born in 2009 by a group of 14 year olds from northern beaches.

The Youth Congress will be held between 29th November and 1st December 2011 from 9am -3pm daily at YoYo's Youth Centre, Forest Way Shopping Centre, Cnr of Warringah Road and Forest Way, Frenchs Forest. The Community Forum will be held on 1st December 2011 from 1.30pm-3:00pm at YoYo's Youth Centre.

Entry is free for all events and the SHOROC councils are encouraging young people and the wider community to get involved and be inspired to create positive environmental change.

To register your interest visit www.ozgreen.org or email yltw@ozgreen.org.au

Ends

Media Contact: Ben Taylor, SHOROC 9905 0095 or 0402 883 840

OzGreen Contact: Sue Lennox 0408 027 995

Shore Regional Organisation of Councils – a partnership of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater & Warringah Councils.