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### Youth engagement in the solar energy industry for sustainable economic growth In Nigeria

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#### **Abstract**

Nigeria is one of the developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa whose youths make up a larger percentage of the population. Youths form the active sector with agility, liveliness, innovation, and potential to mobilize the other community members into taking due and effective climate action. They can take up tasks and projects effectively with a high level of energy and zeal towards enhancing climate resilience in Nigeria. Through literature review and participant observation, this study identifies the role of youth engagement in the solar energy industry in enhancing climate resilience thereby achieving sustainable economic growth in Nigeria. The need for climate action cannot be overemphasized, given that global warming leads to climatic changes that are detrimental to millions of lives and properties. Youth engagement in the solar energy industry would help in a profound way to create employment, eradicate poverty and hunger among the youths thereby achieving sustainable economic growth in Nigeria. This study recommends more green financing from multilateral organizations such as the World Bank Group for enhancing youth engagement in the solar energy industry in Nigeria. It concludes with a clarion call to the Nigerian government to give the youths the maximum support needed to unleash their potentials towards advancing the solar energy industry for sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.

#### **Biography**

Benjamin Anabaraonye is a researcher at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria. Through the Project Green Initiative, he conducts research along with his team on climate change adaptation and mitigation for global sustainability. In 2016, Benjamin received the Green Champion award from the United States Department of States. In 2019, He received the World Environment Day Hero Awards from the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP). In December 2020, He received the global ambassador award from the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany at their World Sustainable Development Teach-In\_Day2020 event. He is the host of the educational blog: [www.projectgreeninitiative.wordpress.com](http://www.projectgreeninitiative.wordpress.com) which features events, articles and poems on climate change adaptation and mitigation for global sustainability. His research papers have been published by high ranking international, academic journals.

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