

07 SEPTEMBER 2026

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES

CLEAN AIR, COLLECTIVE ACTION ACROSS GAUTENG

Marking the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies through environmental education, community actions, and practical solutions.

UNDERSTANDING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES

Clean air is essential to healthy communities, a healthy environment and a sustainable future. Yet air pollution continues to affect communities around the world, with consequences for human health, the environment, climate, and economies.

The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies provides an opportunity for the world to recognise these challenges and, more importantly, to encourage action towards cleaner air.

The United Nations General Assembly designated the 7th of September as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies in 2019, with the observance facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



BRINGING THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION INTO GAUTENG

In Gauteng, this global call for action was brought into communities through the work of 33 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) working with schools and communities.

In celebration of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, CBOs organised activities that explored air quality and environmental health while also addressing wider environmental issues.



The activities included awareness sessions, school engagements, tree planting, food gardens, environmental competitions, trashion shows, air quality knowledge surveys and practical action against illegal dumping.

Together, these activities demonstrated that building healthier communities does not depend on one solution. It requires education, participation, creativity, and action.

BEYOND THE DAY

The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies may be observed on the 7th of September, but the responsibility to protect the air we breathe extends far beyond a single day. The activities showed that meaningful environmental action does not always begin with large interventions.

Sometimes, it begins with a conversation in a classroom, a learner planting a tree, a community member taking action against illegal dumping, or a young person transforming discarded materials into something new. The blue skies we hope for tomorrow are shaped by actions we take today!