



Inside this issue:

From the Editor's Pen

Dear Readers!

From the Editor's Pen	1
Gauteng Integrated Energy Strategy	1
2008 SEED City Network Meeting	2
DME Energy efficiency Strategy Workshop	2
New US Stance on Energy	3
RSA's Long-term Mitigation Scenario	3
News Snippets	4
Training Opportunities	5

Here is the November issue of the eSEED Newsletter. This issue has a lot of interesting developments around energy that are taking place both nationally and globally. It appears that energy efficiency is finally receiving the attention that it is due. For instance, the recent signing of the National Energy Bill into law by the President of the Republic of South Africa means *inter alia* that the Minister of Minerals & Energy can now by notice in the Gazette make regulations regarding the energy efficiency standards for specific technologies, processes, appliances, devices, motor vehicles and building. In the same vein, the recent approval of the SANS 204:1-3 voluntary standards signals that we are moving closer to having the rating and auditing of buildings made mandatory in terms of their energy efficiency levels. The recent birth of the Integrated Energy Strategy process for the Gauteng province gives courage to other provinces (who haven't done the same yet) to realize that, while a lot of work around energy efficiency and renewable is being done by individual municipalities, a regional approach can further support the efficient use of provincial resources and reduce duplication of efforts. Positive new developments around Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy technologies are also highlighted in this issue.

Sustainable Energy Greetings!

Ludwe ka Mbhele

Gauteng Province embarks on an Integrated Energy Strategy

The Gauteng province held its first 2-day workshop to initiate processes that will culminate in the development of the Gauteng provincial Integrated Energy Strategy. DPLG has been tasked to lead this process. The first day engaged representatives from various provincial government departments, and the second day had representatives from all district and local municipalities around the province.

The primary aim of this 2-day workshop was to outline this initiative to all present as well as to get an overview of the variety of energy related initiatives that are planned and /or currently underway in Gauteng province. This workshop confirmed that there are a number

of energy related projects that are underway in Gauteng and that the majority of these have been initiated as a result of the recent electricity crisis.

However, such noble projects, including lessons learnt, are currently not being shared among municipalities – and this seems to lead to the duplication of efforts and waste of resources.

Energy concerns are cross-sectoral and must be handled in



an integrated manner. It is therefore essential for the full range of stakeholders to have input into the strategy from all government departments and all sectors, including transport, housing, health, social development, and economic development.

Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA), a Cape Town based Section 21 organization that promotes sustainable energy approaches and practices in the development of South Africa and Africa, have been appointed by the province to help them formulate their Integrated Energy Strategy.

Source: Sustainable Energy Africa

2008 SEED City Network Meeting

Cities came together on the 11th and 12th of September 2008 for the SEED's 2nd biannual City Network Meeting at Ikhaya Lodge & Conference Centre in Cape Town. Meetings of this nature present great opportunities for individual cities share latest developments related to their sustainable energy initiatives.

Equally important, they also afford the SEED Team a chance not only to enhance the city partners capacities to implement identified projects but also disseminate critical information intended to assist cities align their initiatives with the national and their respective provincial initiatives.

The City Exchanges consisted of presentations by the following cities: City of Cape Town (Sarah Ward), Sol Plaaite (Bobby Buchanan), Tshwane (Juan Mostert) and Nelson Mandela Bay (Steyn van der Merwe), Mangaung (Tumelo Shakwane), Ekurhuleni (Ntombifuthi Ntuli and Frans Brandow), Tlokwe (Hendriko Veldman), eThekweni (Deena Govender), City of Johannesburg (Linda Phalatse) and Buffalo City (Brett Hagen).

Some of the cities' challenges outlined in this city network include that fact that a number of energy related policies and their implementation do not filter down to the Local Authority level where the action is meant to take place. Also, a lack of communication among both city and government departments with regard to policy implementation was highlighted.

To resolve this, cities suggested that there is an urgent need a cross-cutting, data and information holding and sharing procedure was identified to better utilise resources and also prevent unnecessary overlap of work. These deliberations clearly indicate a promising future for our cities' eagerness to promote sustainable urban energy development.



Yachika Reddy from SEA facilitating one of the SEED City Network sessions

DME's Energy Efficiency Strategy Workshop

The Department of Minerals & Energy (DME) held a two-day Workshop on the 27-28 October 2008, at CSIR Convention Centre in Pretoria, as part of the DME's plan to review the National Energy Efficiency Strategy before it is taken for Cabinet approval to become the new Energy Efficiency Policy of South Africa. Part of the DME mandate is to prescribe sectoral energy efficiency targets for ten years in a phased approach, with each phase consisting of three years duration.

The current overall target of the Strategy is a final energy demand reduction of 12% by 2015 with specific targets of 15% for industry, 15% for commercial and public buildings, 10% for residential and 9% for the transport sector. There is also a 15% target for the power generation sector. The primary aim of this workshop was to review these sectoral targets, such that they are adjusted to the present energy situation. Among other key announcements made at this workshop include the fact that the National Energy Bill has been signed into law by the President of the Republic of South Africa on the 21st October 2008, and that SANS 204:1-3 voluntary standards have been approved pending regulation within the next 12 months. Emphasis was made that these are design and not operational standards as the latter requires change of behaviour. The SANS204:1-3 standards are now available at the South African Bureau of Standards.

(www.sabs.co.za).

The resolution to have national standards and labels for buildings, which means each building will need to be audited for energy efficiency and such results will be posted on its foyer, is important in that buildings in general are major consumers of energy and have long life cycles. Stakeholders recommended that the DME should consider the extension of energy efficiency standards and certification to the existing stock of buildings as well as new developments. And that a rating system for buildings, with SANS204 standards as the minimum benchmark, and the energy audits should be made compulsory for all involved.

While attendees couldn't reach consensus as to by what percentage the abovementioned targets should be reviewed (as no data/information was available to make such decisions), there was a general agreement that the existing targets are too low and they need to be varied upwards. Also, while it was acknowledged that the transport sector target of 9% energy demand reduction by 2015 might be unrealistic based on the time frames and the general long-term nature of actions, it was felt that such a review needs to take place in the presence of representatives from the National Department of Transport - and none of these were present at the workshop.

Source: Sustainable Energy Africa

New US Stance on Energy & Environmental Issues

In his election campaign the now US President-elect, Barack Obama, promised major changes in the US policy regarding the country's position on Energy and Environmental issues. These can have a great impact that for the world at large. Here are some of the promises:

- Make the U.S. a Leader on Climate Change.
- Implement an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 and play a strong positive role in negotiating a binding global treaty to replace the expiring Kyoto Protocol
- Invest \$150 billion over ten years to support renewable energy and get 1 million plug-in electric cars on the road by 2015
- Put 1 million Plug-In Hybrid cars -- cars that can get up to 150 miles per gallon -- on the road by 2015, cars that we will work to make sure are built here in America.
- Ensure 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.
- Help create five million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future.
- Only negotiate new trade agreements that contain labor and environmental protections
- Ensure 10 percent of Our Electricity Comes from Renewable Sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.
- Deploy the Cheapest, Cleanest, Fastest Energy Source – Energy Efficiency.
- Develop and Deploy Clean Coal Technology
- Prioritize the Construction of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline
- Weatherize One Million Homes Annually.

Source: <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/>

News Snippets

Affordable solar panels on the way for SA

A recent R 40 million investment over the next five years, facilitated by Wesgro, into a photovoltaic solar panel manufacturing plant is set to make sustainable, affordable electricity a reality. SETSOLAR is the only black South African women owned solar panel manufacturer in South Africa with a competitive advantage – they're able to produce customised affordable solar panels. Source: <http://www.cbn.co.za/dailynews/3113.html>

Eskom to propose new law?

Eskom may propose legislation to force companies to save energy, a senior manager said on Wednesday. "There's an attempt within Eskom to push for energy efficiency and we've also been imploring the industry to drop their usage by about 10 percent," said Monkwe Mpye, senior manager of energy efficiency and demand side management at Eskom. Source: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/1231720.htm>

New Near Perfect Solar Designs

Solar breakthroughs are relatively commonplace. However, typically they are iterative -- small increases by a percent or two in efficiency.

Researchers at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute have invented a new solar cell that is anything but iterative as it blows away past offerings by a large margin; something RPI calls a "game-changer" for the solar business. Source: <http://www.dailytech.com/>

DME, DBSA create fund to boost renewable energy investments

The Department of Minerals and Energy (DME), together with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), has established a renewable energy market transformation programme (REMT) to assist investors in overcoming some of the obstacles and barriers preventing growth in the renewable energy sector.

Source: <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article.php?>

Renewable energy feed-in tariff expected by Feb – NERSA

The National Energy Regulator Themban Bukula told delegates at the national Renewable Energy Conference in Sandton on Thursday. Eskom was appointed as of South Africa (Nersa) would announce the Renewable energy feed-in tariff (Refit) on February 28, Nersa regulator member for electricity the single buyer for the renewable energy generated, and contracts were valid for a 15-year period. Source: http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article.php?a_id=147001

Notices, Events and Training Opportunities

Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Workshop

A workshop entitled “Programmatic CDM Perspectives in South Africa” hosted by KfW and the South African Designated National Authority will be held at the Grace Hotel, Rosebank on Thursday, 20 November 2008.

The participation is free. Due to limited seats, participation will only be confirmed on a first come first served basis.

**For any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Ms Salome Truter on:
Email- salome@t-squared.co.za and Cell Number: 082 417 1000 no later than 12 November 2008.**

Sol Plaatje Energy & Climate Change Strategy Workshop

The Sol Plaatje Municipality is to hold its first technical workshop of the draft Sol Plaatje Energy & Climate Change Strategy (SPECCS) with officials on the 19th November 2008 to kick start the process of getting it approved by their local Council. This process is in line with the municipality’s vision: to emerge as the solar capital of South Africa, harnessing our rich solar resources and collective efforts to promote economic development, sustainable service delivery and an innovative energy future, thereby fostering Sol Plaatje as ‘the City that Sparkles’.

**For more information please contact Bobby Buchanan on: 053-830 6602 (Office); 079 875 9669;
email - bbuchana@solpaatje.org.za**

Cape Energy Breakfast

Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA) in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Environment Affairs, Development and Planning (DEAD&P) will be hosting a Cape Energy Breakfast to share energy activities in the public sphere within the Cape region. It is hoped that this event will create a space for sharing of implementation tips and tribulations, finding synergy and support and dispelling myths .

Date: Fri 19 November 2008

Time: 7.45am – 9.45am

Venue: TBC, in the CBD close to the Wale & Dorp Street, Cape Town

**For more information please contact Ms Siphokazi Mambushe on: 021 702 3622 or
email - siphokazi@sustainable.org.za**

LAUNCH INVITATION: Cleaner Energy Cooler Climate - Developing Sustainable Energy Solutions for South Africa by Harold Winkler

Venue : Caveau At The Mill, 13 Boundary Road, Newlands, Cape Town

Date : Monday 24 November 2008

Time : 17h30 for 18h00

Guest : The Honourable Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Marthinus Van Schalkwyk

RSVP : publishing@hsrc.ac.za or call 021 4667835