



CITY OF CAPE TOWN | ISIXEKO SASEKAPA | STAD KAAPSTAD

THIS CITY WORKS FOR YOU

Cities for Climate Protection

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Newsletter

May 2005

Number 4

Mitigating and adapting to climate change in Cape Town

Global warming due to carbon dioxide emissions is the biggest global challenge of the century

– Sir David King, the UK's chief scientific adviser (17 May 2005)

Climate change is hitting home

Global climate change is caused by an increase in the amount of Greenhouse Gases (GHG), such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, perfluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride, released into the atmosphere. These gases are produced through human activities such as industry, motor vehicle usage, burning of fossil fuel and the dumping of solid waste. The temperature of the earth's atmosphere has risen by about 0,7 °C and is set to rise even further during the next 30 years, reaching levels that are two to three degrees higher than just before the Industrial Revolution. Natural changes in the Earth's climate have occurred in the past, but in recent years we have observed that current climate change is happening much faster and much more dramatically.

We are already seeing very real warning signs. 6 February 2005 will be remembered as one of the hottest days experienced in the Western Cape. Many temperatures broke fifty-year records. Vredendal reached a maximum of almost 50 °C while Langebaan residents suffered in 40 °C temperatures. The Cape Town city bowl reached 40 °C topping a previous high of 38.3 °C. The water restrictions have also brought attention to the fact that we are going to be experiencing increased water shortages in the future. The prolonged drought, thought to be the worst in 100 years, has also put pressure on farmers in various areas of the Province threatening their livelihoods and those of their workers. The frequent droughts could also threaten food security in coming years. The Tsunami that hit the shores of Asia and affected some African countries on 26 December 2004, also gave us a sharp indicator of



what might happen to coastal towns if the sea levels continue to rise due to global warming.

Presently there are two mainstream response options. The first is mitigation through reducing the amount of carbon dioxide, methane and other GHGs released into the atmosphere. This can be done through activities such as reducing the amount of waste produced, reusing materials and recycling. Mitigation can also be achieved through the reduction of GHGs released by motor vehicles and industry, and through the use of alternative renewable energy sources such as wind power and solar energy. The other response option is adaptation, which helps to reduce the vulnerability of people, plants and animals to climate change. This can be achieved through careful management; use of adaptive strategies and by increasing the resilience of those affected.

The South African Designated National Authority (DNA) for CDM (December 2004)

During recent surveys South Africa was seen as having one of the largest potentials for the implementation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. The delays in CDM project development have been attributed to the lack of a DNA. South Africa has therefore embarked on a process of developing a DNA. A workshop held on 1 December 2004 was one of the first steps taken and was used to provide various stakeholders with an update on the DNA status and give a clear insight for local CDM stakeholders. Cabinet has placed the DNA function into the Department of Mineral Affairs and Energy (DME). It is predicted that the DNA will be officially launched in 2005. For more information: www.dme.gov.za.



Course on ' Sustainable Energy Planning for Cities' (14-19 March 2005)

Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA) in collaboration with the Sustainability Institute (University of Stellenbosch) successfully held a dynamic and intensive 6-day accredited course on 'Sustainable Energy Planning for Cities' spanning 14 - 19 March 2005, attended by 34 professionals. The course attracted a broad range of participants, involved in work embracing energy, planning, environmental issues and sustainable development. Amongst the course attendants were representatives from various local authorities, DBSA and a strong City of Cape Town contingent hailing from the electricity department, the Urban Renewal Programme (URP) as well as Cape Town Councillors, Jerimia Thuynsma, Nacawe Mhaga, William Mxolose, Trevor Tokwana and Xolani Sotashe.

The course was specifically targeted at local government officials, politicians, policy makers and project implementers from South and Southern Africa as well as representatives of organisations working with cities on issues of energy and sustainable development. The aim of this endeavour was to provide a sound theoretical and practical background to energy and draw attention to its pivotal role in the operation and development of cities. www.sustainable.org.za

Darling wind energy farm gets the go-ahead (April 2005)

DARLIPP (Darling Independent Power Producer) have been given the go-ahead to build a wind energy farm near Darling four years after the application was submitted to authorities for its construction. The project, which is the first commercial renewable energy project in South Africa, will begin operation at the end of this year. For more information visit African Wind Energy Association at www.afriwea.org or e-mail them: afriwindea@waccess.co.za



'Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change' Conference: Exeter, UK (February 2005)

An International scientific conference on the stabilisation of GHG gases was hosted by the United Kingdom from 1 - 3 February 2005. It aimed to encourage an international scientific debate on the long-term implications of climate change, the relevance of stabilisation goals, and options to reach such goals; and finally to encourage research on issues related to climate change. Conference website: www.stabilisation2005.com



Greenhouse gas emissions trading markets (February 2005)

The world's first privately owned assistance mechanism was launched on 28 February 2005. It has been set up to help governments and corporations to buy greenhouse gas emissions credits and assist with compliance of treaty commitments made. The Greenhouse Gas Credit Aggregation Pool (GG-CAP) is owned by Natsource Asset Management Corporation (a subsidiary of Natsource LLC) and is a New York based corporation. This trading mechanism will group initial contributions from six European, Canadian and Japanese companies as well as find and then invest in various projects to curb greenhouse gas emissions.



Kyoto comes into force! (February 2005)

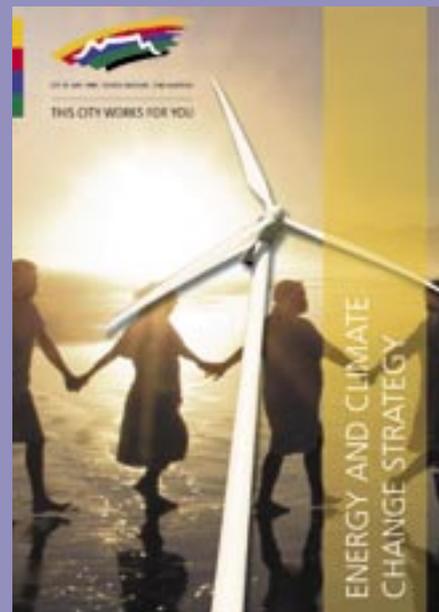
The Kyoto Protocol was founded in 1997. It requires Annex 1 (developed) countries to reduce emissions of GHG by 5,2% compared to 1990 levels, by the period 2008-2012. The Protocol's entry into force to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place on 16 February 2005 after Russia joined in ratifying the Protocol in November last year (2004). The document is legally binding and can now be put into practice for the first commitment period (2008-2012). The Protocol requires countries to recognise that industrial nations carry a large amount of the responsibility for climate change and must take measurable action. <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>



Update on the City's Energy and Climate Change Strategy (May 2005)

SEA (Sustainable Energy Africa) has assisted the City in updating and finalising the Draft Energy Strategy (October 2003) (now the Energy and Climate Change Strategy). A number of new and emerging policies and programmes developing in and around the energy sector have been considered and existing programmes updated. Several stakeholder workshops and meetings have been held regarding the strategy. The process involved the inclusion of new developments around the energy sector, including the National Air Quality Act 2004, Regional Electricity Distributors (REDS), natural gas developments, the climate change situation, nuclear energy status, and wind energy developments. Energy-related targets and implementation mechanisms have been clarified and involve the inclusion of projections on energy use and scenarios undertaken by the University of Cape Town Energy Research Centre.

www.capetown.gov.za/enviro/emd



Kuyasa recognised as gold standard Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Project (April 2005)

The Kuyasa low-cost urban housing project in Khayalitsha has received international recognition. It has been validated as a gold standard Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project. The gold standard is given to projects contributing to sustainable development and is awarded by international non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Kuyasa is the first South African project

to be considered for validation by government (Designated National Authority) and is likely to be the first African CDM project considered by the UNFCCC Executive Management Board. It may also be the first Gold Standard CDM Project (in terms of Sustainable Development) in the World.

www.southsouthnorth.org

Events

May is energy efficiency month

Our energy resources – coal, electricity, gas, and liquid fuels – are not limitless, so it's up to all of us to become energy wise. For more information and energy-saving tips visit www.enerficiency.org.za

Wind Energy Workshop

21 April and 5 May

The SAWEA (South African Wind Energy Association) hosted two identical workshops in Gauteng and the Western Cape. During these workshops, the South African wind energy experience was presented with topics such as the current UNDP Wind Energy Program Framework in SA, Power Purchase Agreement, Wind Measurements, checklists and business plans and the Danish mixed credits scheme. Presentations were made by local and international presenters with South African experience www.afriwea.org or afriwindea2wc.access.co.za.

For more information on the UNDP (the United Nations Development Programme) and SAWEA (South African Wind Energy Programme) go to www.undp.org/energy/prodocs/rba/safwind.htm.

Carbon Expo - Cologne, Germany

11-13 May 2005

This is an annual trade fair and conference dedicated to the emerging carbon market. For more information go to www.carbonexpo.com

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Events (cont.)

ICUE Conference, 2nd Industrial & Commercial Use of Energy Conference, Cape Town

25 - 27 May 2005

ICUE offers a forum to discuss developments in the efficient use of all forms of energy. It is directed towards professionals and practitioners in all fields of commercial and industrial energy. ICUE will provide up to date and real world solutions for the reduction of energy-related costs and improve the overall performance in commercial, industrial, institutional and government facilities. It will run intensive seminars on various topics. "Participants will learn about the latest regulatory and market trends, which impact their decisions, and hear firsthand reports on successful projects and technology applications. They will explore the complete spectrum of resources now offered by energy service providers to help reduce energy costs, analyse energy data, develop demand side management strategies, upgrade equipment, electricity tariffs, obtain project financing and more". Those wishing to attend the conference can contact us at: Industrial & Commercial Use of Energy Secretariat Fax +27 21 460-3701 e-mail icue@ctech.ac.za, website: www.ctech.ac.za/conf/icue/index.html

Provincial Sustainable Development Conference

18-22 June 2005

The commitment to develop strategies for sustainable development was captured in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Within South Africa a number of steps have been taken which could be seen as contributing to a sustainable development strategy. In the Western Cape two of these important steps are the Ikapa Elihlumayo Framework, which is a vision of a home for all in the Western Cape, and the other the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy. In addition to these, a number of sectoral policies and strategies that relate to sustainable development have also been developed (e.g. Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework). The Western Cape, however, needs to have a Sustainable Development Implementation Plan to ensure implementation of sustainable development. The development of the Sustainable Development Implementation Plan will be done by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning in conjunction with the other departments and will culminate in the Western Cape Sustainable Development Conference, which is being organised from 19-22 June 2005 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. www.capetown-sdc.co.za

ZeroCarbonCity Exhibition

June 2005

The ZeroCarbonCity Exhibition is a global British Council campaign aimed at reframing the international climate change debate by exploring the energy challenges that are facing the world's biggest cities. Their aim is to raise awareness, to stimulate debate around climate change and to take a closer look at the challenges faced. The ZeroCarbonCity programme, launched in the United Kingdom in early March 2005, will be visiting over 60 countries around the world. A wide variety of activities will be taking place and campaign resources will be available. City venues will provide a platform for expert comment on a variety of topics connected to climate change, and then encouraging audience participation to continue the open discussion. The British Council has formed a partnership with the City of Cape Town to host the NorthSouthEastWest Exhibition. This showcases the work of ten of the world's top photographers from Magnum Photographic Agency who were commissioned to capture images from ten diverse countries around the world to illustrate not only the impacts of climate change, but also the solutions being implemented to reduce carbon emissions in communities. This event will also include other related wrap-around activities. The prospective launch day will be 2 June 2005 in Cape Town. www.britishcouncil.org/zerocarboncity

Energy Transformation in Southern Africa 2005, Johannesburg

June 21 - 23 2005

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2005 Africa Energy Forum, Barcelona, Spain

June 22 - 24 2005

Organiser: EnergyNet Ltd, Contact: Bruno Cockburn, Tel: (+44 20) 8547 0698, Fax: (+44 20) 8541 3244, bruno@energynet.co.uk

Power Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa July 26 - 29, 2005

Organiser: IIR South Africa, Tel: (+27 11) 771 7144, Fax: (+27 11) 880 6789, jsteinacker@iir.co.za

2006 ICLEI World Congress

The City of Cape Town is hosting ICLEI's World Congress, which will take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 27 February - 3 March 2006. The theme for the congress is Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges. The congress will be a dynamic event

with keynote presentations, workshops, debates, networking events, reports, an interactive exhibition and site visits.

ICLEI is an international association of local governments implementing sustainable development. More than 500 cities and towns from around the world are full members of the Council with hundreds of additional local governments participating in specific ICLEI campaigns and projects.

Increasingly, ICLEI's programmes are aligning themselves with the targets and challenges from the WSSD. ICLEI 2006 will help review local government progress on targets set at the WSSD and showcase projects which represent this action. ICLEI's programmes, which will form important inputs at the congress, include Cities for Climate Protection, Renewable Energy, Local Agenda 21, Water Campaign, Resilient and Vulnerable Communities, Urban Mobility, Eco-Efficient Cities and Green Procurement. Newly introduced themes such as Urban Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism will also be showcased.

Website: www.iclei.org/worldcongress2006

For more information on energy and climate related issues:

- Climate Action Network (CAN) <http://www.climateactionnetwork.org/>
- Environmental Planning – City of Cape Town <http://www.capetown.gov.za/enviro/emd>
- Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy (IMEP) -City of Cape Town <http://www.capetown.gov.za/imep>
- ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign <http://www.iclei.org/ccp>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- South South North Clean Development Mechanism <http://www.southsouthnorth.org/>
- Sustainable Energy Africa <http://www.sustainable.org.za>
- Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Partnership (SECCP) <http://www.earthlife.org.za>
- United Nations Framework Convention on ClimateChange (UNFCCC) <http://unfccc.int/>

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