

## GREEN ELECTRICITY FOR WORLD CONGRESS

LEADING the way once again, the City Of Cape Town will be acquiring green electricity during the ICLEI World Congress to cover the electricity usage of delegates at what has been dubbed the largest international gathering of municipal leaders.

Over 600 delegates from 470 municipalities all over the world are to meet at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) from 27 February to 3 March 2006 to share ideas on building sustainable cities.

"The aim of the ICLEI World Congress is to find local solutions for global challenges, with a specific focus on local government best practice for building safe communities, poverty alleviation, integrated environmental resource management and sustainable procurement," says Grace Stead, Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinator.

"To walk the talk, we will ensure that the ICLEI Congress is a truly 'green' event by implementing greening measures in terms of energy efficiency, waste reduction and water reduction," says Stead.

For the entire duration of the five day congress, BP Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd has agreed to sponsor the supply of green electricity to the conference and accommodation venues.

"This amounts to an estimated 300 kilowatt hours of energy per delegate of renewable energy, using the internationally favoured delivery mechanism of TRECs (Tradeable Renewable Energy Certificates)," says Merrick Dunster of BP Southern Africa.

Green electricity, also known as renewable energy, includes energy generated by wind, solar, water (tidal energy, wave energy and low-impact hydro) and biomass such as wood and agricultural by-products.

According to GreenX Energy, the company appointed to supply the green electricity, the specific energy needs of ICLEI congress delegates at the CTICC and the main hotels, will be provided by electricity that has been generated as a sustainable process and from renewable biomass sources, without relying on the conventional coal- or nuclear-derived electricity.

'By utilising green electricity, events such as ICLEI are able to reduce their contribution to global warming and climate change by minimising their carbon footprint,' says Joubert Steyn, CEO of GreenX Energy.

"The CTICC and hotel venues will also be able to reduce their carbon emissions without having to buy new infrastructure, operate new technology or change their electricity supply arrangements. Delegates are guaranteed that their energy consumption is matched by the input of the same number of megawatt hours from certified renewable sources into the national grid," says Steyn.

more .....  
green electricity two ...

"Another ICLEI greening initiative is the payment of a R400 carbon credit levy by each delegate which will go directly towards the Kuyasa housing project in Khayelitsha, the first energy-saving project in Africa to be registered as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project for carbon trading," says Stead.

A joint initiative between the City of Cape Town and SouthSouthNorth, Kuyasa aims to cut reliance on fossil fuels by kitting out 2 000 low-income houses with solar water heaters, insulated ceilings and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

According to Stead, the CTICC itself also has a greening policy that promotes energy-efficient systems and recycling practices. Built in 2003, the centre was designed to harness natural light in all the public areas, 75% of its lighting fixtures are fluorescent, air-conditioning systems are adjusted to suit prevailing seasonal conditions, and all toilets have dual flush mechanisms.

The Centre also maximises reusable items such as table linen, cutlery and glassware and its procurement policy favours fresh rather than processed foods, and the supply of biodegradable soaps in dispensers rather than individual sachets. For the ICLEI event, organic local food will be procured where possible.

In addition, ICLEI conference organisers have been doing a full 'greening' audit on five of the hotels that will accommodate ICLEI delegates. "We are pulling out all stops to ensure that the ICLEI Congress is a truly 'green' event," says Stead.

"Waste is a major problem at conferences, but is one of the easier problems to solve. Practical tips include back-to-back printing of documents on recycled, chlorine-free paper; the provision of separate waste bins for paper, plastics and other recyclable materials; the minimising of packaging material; and the inclusion of reusable promotional material, ideally from recycled materials.

"It also makes economic sense for exhibitors to only bring what is needed for the event. Over-packaging creates waste and certain materials such as polystyrene are not recyclable. Also, one should avoid mass distribution of handouts and limit the number of promotional handouts only to those interested in more information.

"Exhibitors are also being encouraged to use indigenous plants that showcase the region's unique biodiversity; natural fabrics such as straw, hessian, raffia and calico; and containers from community based projects and environmentally responsible manufacturers," she says.

For more information, click onto [www.iclei.org/worldcongress2006](http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress2006).

---

**Media Enquiries:** **Charles Cooper, Media Liaison Officer, City of Cape Town,  
Tel: (021) 400-3710 or Cell: 084 628 8618**  
**Grace Stead, LA21 Co-ordinator, City of Cape Town,  
Tel: (021) 918-2564 or Cell: 084-770-8625**  
**Joubert Steyn, GreenX Energy, (021) 659-3006 or  
Cell: 082-555-9916**