

Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency through City Energy Strategies in South Africa

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| Geography | South Africa |
| Duration | 2006-2007 |
| Budget | €80,310 including co-funding from the participating municipalities |
| Implementation Agency | Sustainable Energy Africa |

Purpose

Promotion of RE and EE as a practical means of assisting socio-economic development within urban communities in South Africa, whilst restricting the growth of carbon emissions, through “making the case” for such practice and ensuring related awareness, knowledge and capacity is built at local and national government level.

Project Description

Pioneering city energy strategy work and ‘State of Energy’ assessments undertaken over the past years in South Africa have highlighted the critical role cities play in the national energy picture. The largest cities account for approximately 40% of overall energy consumption and are important focus areas for achieving national energy targets in RE and EE as well as being key players in national economic development and social welfare in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

In order to take the energy agenda further, five of the more pioneering cities in South Africa have formed an ‘energy alliance’. These cities have energy strategies or plans, and all have implemented RE and EE demonstration or pilot projects. Now they are looking to large-scale implementation, and have come together under this REEEP project to provide mutual support, capacity building for staff, develop a network of implementation contacts and form a critical mass to facilitate a large-scale roll-out of RE and EE interventions.

The RE and EE options covered by the project, and identified by cities to be the most important focus areas include solar water heaters, efficient building design, efficient lighting and transport modal shift from private-vehicles to public transport.

Main Activities

- Synthesise baseline information on energy use and CO₂ emissions in cities, including existing RE and EE applications
- Quantify potential for, and identify economic, social and environmental benefits of, RE and EE implementation
- Support cities with action plans for large-scale implementation
- Coordinate amongst organisations identified to be important to implementation
- Target activities in poor urban communities for improving access to sustainable energy development



- Promote equity in development through activities promoting greater EE within mid-high income communities
- Assess legislative, policy, financial, institutional framework, barriers and their solutions relevant to RE and EE development in South African cities
- Compile guidance on these cities' role in effective RE and EE implementation from a national perspective
- Develop and present suitable material on practical actions for key officials in these, and other South African cities

Challenges

- Overcoming institutional/legal framework challenges within municipalities to be implementers and contract suitable organisations to support implementation of key RE and EE interventions identified by cities
- Lack of capacity in some cities to implement RE and EE interventions

Expected Benefits

- Project implementation occurs through linking five large cities with suitable implementation organizations and financiers (example: Development Bank of Southern Africa)
- RE and EE measures in the form of solar water heaters and EE lighting to be implemented within five cities
- Renewable energy and energy-efficient building guidelines and by-laws developed within five cities (in draft at least)
- Installation of energy-efficient lighting in all government buildings within five cities – programmes have started
- Extending sustainable energy strategies/planning to other South African cities
- Greater support from national government to local authorities towards achieving RE and EE targets
- Informing national government of the potential role of cities in supporting RE and EE agendas and convincing national government that RE and EE will positively contribute to development targets

Status & Progress

The project has completed a workshop with the participating cities. Local authority strategies in the UK, Europe, China etc. have also been catalogued. Main activities underway include action planning with cities in facilitating large-scale implementation of four RE and EE options identified by the five cities as priority areas, coordinating amongst organisations identified from workshop as important players in facilitating implementation, and compilation of guidance on the appropriate role of these cities in effective RE and EE implementation from a national perspective.

