



THE GREEN CONNECTION

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To: Minister of Finance

BUDGET TIPS FOR MANAGING THE ENERGY CRISES 2024

The Green Connection is a registered non-governmental organisation, that believes economic growth and development, improvement of socio-economic status and conservation of natural resources can only take place within a commonly understood framework of sustainable development. It aims to provide practical support to both the government and nongovernmental/ civil society sectors, which are an integral part of sustainable development. The Green Connection is an environmental and social justice civil society organisation that promotes sustainable livelihoods and the achievement of environmental rights.

The Green Connection submits these comments in response to an invitation by the Minister of Finance on the budget for 2024.

Noting that:

- South Africa needs an energy plan (Integrated Energy Plan - as per section 6 of the National Energy Act, 2008)) that will guide the country's energy investments while considering reduction of our GHG emissions in all sectors to meet our international climate agreements, working collaboratively with marginalised communities through public participation to ensure a viable sustainable economy.
- The [International Energy Agency](#) report reiterated that there should be no new coal mine extensions as coal demand declines quickly. In that regard [reports](#) show that the country needs to invest in more renewables as our reliance on fossils will result in significant job losses compared to renewables and South Africa won't be able to meet the agreement to reduce emissions signed under Paris agreement.
- Reports prove that there is [no growth in the fossil fuel industry](#). Money could be allocated to fund renewable and climate adaptation projects that will create [1 million](#) jobs while transforming our energy sector to being less reliant on fossil fuels.



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- While Department of Mineral Resources and Energy states that there is a global acceptance of gas and it plays a critical role as clean energy technology in the just energy transition from high carbon emissions to low carbon emissions that raises concern to us as [research](#) has proven methane emissions from gas to be more potent than that of carbon dioxide. We request money to be invested in sustainable energy projects and help rehabilitate communities that have been affected by coal mining and oil and gas exploration.
- Carbon dioxide stored underground (carbon capture) [has a high risk](#) of leaking, and is not a proven technology. Climate change consequences that come with leakages are detrimental as they could lead to global increases in highly dangerous carbon dioxide levels that would put vulnerable communities in more danger of facing severe floods and heatwaves. Developing such technologies poses great risk in adding GHG emissions, we need to invest more in solar roofing and wind power.

In conclusion, the just energy transition South Africa should embark on should not leave anyone behind but enforce legislations and frameworks to rehabilitate communities currently suffering because of exploitation of fossil fuels. Money should flow into projects that will combat climate change and solve our energy crisis to build a sustainable economy. The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) emphasizes the need for countries to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels to well below 1.5 degree Celsius to curb the effects of climate change as vulnerable communities suffer the most while they have contributed the least to climate change.

The final [MTEF allocation of R813 million](#) to the Council for Geoscience to fund oil and gas exploration activities for the year of 2023/2024/2025, should be cut. No further funds should be allocated to oil and gas exploration but that money should be directed to public works job creation funds for the just energy transition.

Kind regards,

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Lisa Makaula