



## Illustrative Integrated Energy Plan Community Engagements

### First Round of Engagements March – September

#### Background

The Green Connection and the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI) initiated a legal challenge against President Ramaphosa to force him to bring Section 6 of the National Energy Act into operation. This section of the national energy act (2008) mandates the Minister of Energy to review and annually develop an Integrated Energy Plan (IEP). The president and the Minister capitulated<sup>1</sup>, last year, the President and Minister announced that the IEP would be developed by 2025.

The first IEP is due on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and The Green Connection with various partner organisations kick-started engagements in communities as part of ensuring people are engaged in the IEP process. This is part of a bottom-up approach to develop a people's IEP.

#### Community Engagements with different stakeholders

The community's idea of an inclusive IEP is one that addresses energy poverty, energy access and the urgent need to tackle climate change with the bottom-up approach being a central principle. With multinational corporations developing interest in oil and gas exploitation along the coast of South Africa, coastal communities have been struggling to advocate for sustainable ocean governance as means to protect and preserve their livelihood. The energy plan comes at a time when vulnerable communities suffer from limited energy access in South Africa. Research has shown that lack of access to affordable energy at household level is associated with poverty in households. The last draft IEP was in 2016 which was never finalised, and was not in accordance with the law because the law was not in place. This has resulted in poor energy governance leading to approval of projects that could threaten coastal livelihoods and marine ecosystem and would not be justified if an IEP had been finalised in accordance with the law. As South Africa is on a path of a just energy transition, coastal communities whose livelihood depends on oceans shouldn't be left behind. The responses recorded are taken from different community engagements in the following listed areas:

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<sup>1</sup> The government agreed to pay our costs – in other words we won.

<https://thegreenconnection.org.za/2023/05/04/vindicated-civil-society-finally-makes-headway-to-compel-government-to-develop/>



Table below is collated responses from communities:

<p><b>1. Energy demand</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community owned renewable projects to alleviate energy poverty.</li> <li>● Biogas digesters</li> <li>● Economic growth</li> <li>● Improved battery storage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Energy supply</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Energy should be easily accessible to marginalised communities and affordable.</li> <li>● 75% renewables by 2030 excluding nuclear.</li> </ul>	<p><b>3. Demand-side management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Safe affordable transport that is inclusive. E.g. electric vehicles and electric boats for fishing.</li> <li>● Cycling for short distances and walking.</li> <li>● Donkey carts as they are environmentally friendly.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Climate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No more investments in fossil fuel projects.</li> <li>● Moratorium on oil and gas exploration.</li> <li>● Government needs to address climate change by implementing proper policies and help communities transition from industries heavily reliant on fossils.</li> <li>● Safer energy options to address climate change is the roll-out of renewable projects for households.</li> <li>● Commencement of the climate act.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>5. Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy generated from fossils negatively impacts on the environment and people’s health but needed for a short term.</li> <li>• The type of renewable rollout communities looks forward to is wind and solar pv.</li> <li>• Gas for cooking.</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair &amp; just Ocean governance.</li> <li>• Community owned renewable projects.</li> <li>• Cheaper energy alternatives</li> <li>• Protection and preservation of cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>7. Jobs/Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support job creation locally.</li> <li>• Investments in the agricultural sector particularly for small-scale farmers.</li> <li>• Supporting &amp; Protection of small-scale fishers jobs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>8. Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-evaluation of the draft IRP 2023 once the IEP comes in 2025.</li> <li>• Promote legislations that will ensure protection of oceans and small-scale fisher’s livelihoods.</li> <li>• Free Basic alternative Energy policy can also be used to reach communities that are not connected to the grid.</li> <li>• The Gas Master Plan needs to be re-visited.</li> </ul> <p><b>Signed Into Law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity Regulation Act</li> </ul> <p>Sent to the President for Assent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upstream Petroleum Development Bill.</li> </ul>
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## Analysis

Different community engagements have been held to discuss how South Africa should develop a people's Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) that will be inclusive of marginalised communities which have been bearing the brunt of climate change due to the fossil fuel industry. The IEP has been marked as an opportunity to address energy planning issues. The most common factor in the communities that we spoke to is the development of household renewable energy projects to ensure marginalised groups have access to electricity that won't have environmental harm and negative impact on health. As part of ensuring growth of local economies there was a call for the government to start supporting the agricultural sector that is small -scale farmers and small-scale fishers as part of protecting existing jobs and creating more opportunities in the sector. According to a report<sup>2</sup> that was published by Masifundise, the economic value of the fishing sector amounts to 6 billion per annum industry employment of 27 000 people. The study notes that South Africa has 147 fishing communities, 28 338 fisher households and 29 233 subsistence fishers which indicates that local livelihoods need to be considered when these policies and legislation are enacted. Development of the people's IEP for communities should be business unusual, that means good governance should be at the centre of ensuring that the rights and cultural heritage of communities is preserved. While there are policies that have been introduced without having this legislation, re-visiting them once the IEP has been finalised will help address the issues in the draft IRP 2023 which is failure to provide detailed costs of different types of electricity the model uses and also scales back on renewable energy. The Gas Master Plan which does not consider the negative economic, social and environmental impacts that would be introduced nationally and regionally through the development of a gas market, which is neither necessary nor desirable.

The IEP needs to consider the negative impacts on livelihoods due to externalities of oil and gas exploration in its scenarios. for example, if an oil spill were to occur on east or south coast, coastal livelihoods on the west coast could be affected. This would be a cost to the oil/gas technology which EVs would not have. All these externalities need to be included in any scenario that proposes to use offshore gas.

We need to model the extraction of local gas/oil and the import of oil and gas - ensuring that externalities for environmental and socio-economic costs are included such information can be provided.

Scenarios that look at restarting refineries to pursue fossil-based transport need to include the environmental rehabilitation costs that are needed before any of our ageing refineries could start work.

Renewable energy also needs to be assessed with its externalities - environmental and social impacts on communities.

Household energy security based on solar pv and solar water heaters was a strong theme for communities. Connecting to Eskom has resulted in unaffordable electricity and the forced reliance on diesel/petrol driven taxis has made travel very expensive Electric vehicles modelling should prioritise public transport in the first years of the model.



Communities also expressed a willingness to use transport that was ecofriendly such as donkey carts in rural areas and bicycles and walking in inner city or small towns. perhaps the model could look at how such initiatives would result in less investment in roads and car related road expansion in cities for example.

### **Assumptions of gas being a transitional fuel**

Promotion of gas as a transition fuel by government and vested interests raises serious concerns as increased use of gas especially in electricity generation will result in more greenhouse emissions and methane. Methane emissions have a greater impact than that of carbon dioxide as they are projected to be [82.5 times as impactful](#) as those of carbon dioxide. The desirability of using gas as a 'transitional' fuel is also questionable having regard to volatile international gas prices, as well as the potential risk of Carbon Border Taxes being introduced in the future. The scenario development needs to include socio-economic impacts of gas in the volatile global gas industry market and the cost of climate change induced infrastructure that has been damaged by severe weather conditions. Additionally, a pathway of what would happen to gas infrastructure once we reach 2050 and the country fully transitions to renewable energy. According to the IEA there is no need for investments in more oil and gas projects as this would risk such assets being stranded.

2.A Situational Analysis of SSF In South Africa: [https://www.masifundise.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/A-Situational-Analysis-of-SSF-in-South-Africa\\_V2V-Working-Paper-No.-2022-9.pdf](https://www.masifundise.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/A-Situational-Analysis-of-SSF-in-South-Africa_V2V-Working-Paper-No.-2022-9.pdf)

3 IEA report: [https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/deebef5d-0c34-4539-9d0c-10b13d840027/NetZeroBy2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector\\_CORR.pdf](https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/deebef5d-0c34-4539-9d0c-10b13d840027/NetZeroBy2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector_CORR.pdf)



**Community Interactions Register**

**Western Cape Arniston**

**18 March 2024**

**15 Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>
<b>O</b>	<b>Timothy</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>Van Der Berg</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Gert</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>Godfrey</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Gabride</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>Shuuzza</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Martinus</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Nerman</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Nerman</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Bernado</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>//////////</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Freddy</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>Humphley</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>Joort</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>Europe</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>Engel</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Mathino</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Thompson</b>
<b>U</b>	<b>Newman</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Newman</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>Harthinus</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Dyers</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Newman</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>Mexma</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Karekse</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>Bernado</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Marcellino</b>

**Province: Eastern Cape, Centane KwaNombanjana Rural Community, Wild Coast , Eastern Cape.**

**22 Attendees**

**10 – 12 July 2024**



N	Mkhwetha
N	Mandita
K	Maselekwana
T	Sonamzi
N	Ntenfeni
S	Wayini
A	Khetsshemiya
Z	Kwekwe
N	Basopu
S	Nkcithakelo
M	Sem
H	Ntshoko
M	Kolanti
S	Krasi
L	Putas
S	Basopu
M	Mthayi
N	Bila
N	Goqo
N	Mconi
L.D	Khetsshemiya
V	Mpukane

Port St Johns

30 Attendees

Date 5 – 9 July 2024

S	Nkotyo
N	Nongcavu
A	Dumba
P	Phikani
S	Ntsunguzi
K	Maselekwana
S	Wayini
N	Ntente
T	Moti
N	Melani
P	Tyali
H	Ntshoko



N	Goqi
M	Kolanti
S	Krakri
T	Sonamzi
A	Khetshemiya
L	Puta
Z	Kwekwe
VW	Mpukane
S	Basopu
Z	Kolisi
N	Bila
N	Mkwetha
A	Khetshemiya
T	Sonamzi
N	Manditha
Y	Tyali
S	Nkcithakalo

**Southern Cape Kleinbrak:**

**24 Attendees**

**23 – 25 June 2024**

R	Zimba
M	Loxton
R	Cupido
B	Lawack
G	Rooibard
D	Klassen
C	Syfers
J	Classen
G	Syfers
M	Plaatjies
J	Isaacs
S	Kennedy
K	Coetzee
G	Samson
O	Jansen
C	Komfer





<b>S</b>	<b>Janson</b>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Lawack</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>kamfer</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Pieterse</b>

**SAFCEI Workshop Western Cape**

**29 August 2024**

**30 Attendees**

**Earth Life Workshop Limpopo**

**05 September 2024**

**30 – 40 attendees**