

To be a centre of excellence and innovation.

ELM Just Energy Transition initiatives

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Overarching objective: To be responsive and proactive to the Just Transition and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, adapted from the ELM CCAMS



Presentation outline

- ✓ Background
- ✓ JET IN ELM
 - ✓ Completed Project
 - ✓ Current project
 - ✓ Future/Planned project
- ✓ reflections on opportunities and challenges
- ✓ support required to be fully ready for JET

Background

- ✓ The Emalahleni Municipal area consists inter alia of the towns of eMalahleni, Kwa-Guqa, Ga-Nala and Ogies. It is the third largest secondary city in the Mpumalanga Province and the main city centre within the Nkangala District Municipality.
- ✓ This area has the largest concentration of power stations in the country.
- ✓ Emalahleni is probably the most industrialized municipal area in Nkangala and its landscape features mainly underground and opencast coalmines.
- ✓ Emalahleni municipality has been experiencing high settlement growth patterns due to rapid urbanisation attributed to its location to various mining and industrial activities attracting migrant labourers.
- ✓ Emalahleni Local Municipality is among four municipalities in Mpumalanga that have highly undiversified economies, heavily reliant on coal mining – eMalahleni (Witbank), Steve Tshwete (Middelburg), Govan Mbeki and Msukaligwa (Ermelo).
- ✓ In eMalahleni, coal accounts for 44% of the economy (GVA) and mining accounts for 26%, of total employment.
- ✓ Miners in these four local municipalities account for approximately 76% of total coal employment in South Africa.

JET IN ELM

- ✓ A socio-economic transition is currently **under way Globally, SA and even in Emalahleni**
- ✓ It is a convergence of multiple factors.
- ✓ One of the core factors underpinning it, is **climate change**.
- ✓ **The coal mining sector alone to date accounts for about 75% of the total mass of all minerals produced nationally (StatsSA 2019) and the idea of transitioning away from such has posed threats not just to the existing coal mines, but to industries that have been largely dependent on the existence of coal fired electricity.**
- ✓ **This is a great cause of concern**
- ✓ **The immediate impacts of a decline in coal production and/or coal-based electricity will be felt by the most vulnerable in the value chain.**
- ✓ **To this end municipalities such as Emalahleni will stand to be severely hit with rising unemployment and reduced economic activity as South Africa transitions to decarbonised economy**
- ✓ Emalahleni is by default, central to the country's Just transition objectives

Completed Project

- ✓ Scaling up the rolling out of solar photovoltaic Small Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) systems in its locality and currently has about 5 SSEG systems with approximately 2MWp total capacity
- ✓ Continuous rolling out of Solar geysers and support to Enviro groups and NGOs

Current and future JET related projects

- ✓ Adapting to the SSEG requirements and development of the By-law as per the regulations
- ✓ Encouraging potential applicants to embark on the process since it is now allowed that applicants as low as 100mw can apply
- ✓ The municipality is currently adapting to all the set guidelines
- ✓ Develop a Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Study for the municipality
- ✓ Develop a GHG emissions Inventory for the municipality
- ✓ Develop a Just Transition Plan for the municipality that transforms the municipal economy into one that is sustainable and inclusive for all
- ✓ Develop procedural elements for social dialogues and democratic governance to involve citizens in decision making and choices about their future, to reduce the vulnerability to climate change and transitioning to lower carbon development.
- ✓ Implementation of waste-to-energy technologies
- ✓ Reduce organic waste disposal to landfills by 40% by 2030 and 100% by 2050 through improved waste management systems
- ✓ Develop an Integrated Green Transport Plan which addresses establishing an efficient public transport system that is fast, frequent, reliable, safe and accessible and moving to cleaner alternatives to current transport fuels as well as encourages compact city planning which reduces the need for multiple and long trips.

Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities:

- Partnership with various stakeholders including government, NGOs and international donors
- Information sharing and capacity building
- Avoiding leaving any one behind
- Possibility of transforming the entire economic structure and more reliant on green and renewable energy

Challenges:

- Lack of Funding to implement the JET and climate change related problem (the bottlenecks that make it difficult for municipalities to access funding)
- Inadequate Education and awareness on both JET and climate change impact-leading to misconceptions and resistance by the community

Support required from various stakeholders to be ready for JET

- ✓ Continuous Capacity building to the municipality and the community including labour movements to clear misconception
- ✓ **Funding, Funding and Funding**
- ✓ Support the municipality through the SALGA Energy support to Fast-track the SSEG Model by-laws and other policy related instruments.
- ✓ Support to the Emerging SMMEs to participate in the renewable energy space.
- ✓ Continuous monitoring of the green economy projects implemented the municipality to ensure that the municipality doesn't loss tract of its just energy transition commitments.

In Conclusion

- ✓ A Just Transition means leaving no-one behind.
- ✓ It requires procedural equity to lead to equitable outcomes.
- ✓ It is at the core of implementing climate action in South Africa, as detailed in both the mitigation and adaptation goals presented in the updated NDC 2021
- ✓ Emalahleni' s Just Energy Transition plans should include planning for workforce reskilling and job absorption, social protection and livelihood creation, incentivizing new green sectors of the economy, diversifying coal dependent regional economies, and developing labour and social plans to prepare for the decommissioning of coal fire stations.

    
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Thank You

