The Energy Council of South Africa is dedicated to fostering collaboration, innovation, and action in the energy sector. Through delivery partnerships, advocacy, and thought leadership, the Council is committed to advancing South Africa's energy transition and ensuring a secure, sustainable energy future for all.

Developments in recent months have really emphasised the importance of relationships, the need to rebuild trust and the need for honest conversations.

Policy direction and broad positioning is robust and correct but yet underlying industry sentiment and media are highlighting increasing uncertainty and investor anxiety.

A phrase often used when confronting difficult or systemic challenges is "No one is coming to save us." This is not a statement of pessimism but rather a call to ownership and leadership of the solutions rather than floundering in the problem.

In the context of our energy transition and sector reforms, this mindset matters. The challenges we face are not just about restoring reliability, but are much deeper and cross cutting. We must deal with the reality of consistent economic decline for more than a decade, while tackling institutional reform, system modernisation, reskilling, rebuilding trust and attracting massive investment. Uncertain and disruptive geo-politics is certainly not helping our valiant efforts.

Dealing with these issues require a step-up in leadership, collaboration and sustained commitment from within our own institutions and society. Encouragingly though, we are seeing real progress. Our electricity market is changing in ways that are both necessary and positive. Private generation is expanding, bilateral powerpurchases are robust, and licensed electricity traders are emerging as important intermediaries between generators and customers. Together, these developments reflect a system that is diversifying to attract investment and create new and more efficient pathways to bring new capacity online in line with policy objectives, but the integration between the old and new world is increasingly showing cracks.

Structural tensions are surfacing through elements such Trader and Grid Access rules that now need to be addressed deliberately. As the market becomes more decentralised and competitive, a central question comes into sharper focus: how should the costs of the electricity system be allocated and recovered in this new world? Transparency is key to ensuring efficient and fair cost recovery, which must also include a level of system redundancy as we transition between the old and new world. This means costs will go up before they come down but the growing misalignment between how the system is used and how it is paid for will risk creating significantly higher costs than what optimally could be achieved through an integrated approach.

The challenge is not the emergence of new market participants. On the contrary, private investment and electricity traders are fundamental to government policy and essential to scaling investment and enabling a modern electricity system. The risk lies in the fact that tariff structures, regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements have not yet fully adapted and our rapid shift from loadshedding crisis has left many integration and sequencing gaps in the reform planning.

Beyond markets and infrastructure, this transition is also fundamentally about rebuilding trust. Trust has been eroded over many years by state capture, declining institutional capability and social division. It cannot be restored through policy statements, but rather must be earned through demonstrating transparency, consistent leadership, credible institutions and visible delivery.

At the Energy Council of South Africa, we believe that no single institution can deliver this transition on its own, collaboration is critical. Progress will depend on trusted relations and partnering between government, Eskom, regulators, labour, business, financiers, communities and civil society. We must all align around a shared national common good, which is ultimately Growth and job creation, but a secure, affordable and sustainable electricity sector is possibly the most fundamental enabler or threat to those ambitions.

South Africa has made rapid and real progress in the electricity sector. The task now is to ensure the underlying reform steps are correctly integrated and sequenced to ensure consistent and managed progress in line with stated policy.

Sasol CEO reframes the SA energy security debate.

In conversation with Motheo Khoaripe, Simon Baloyi emphasised that it is crucial to make sure that the operating refineries we have which number three at present, are looked after and their life extended. Economic recovery, competitiveness, job creation and climate commitments all depend on reliable, affordable energy.

Read more

Envusa Energy's Umsobomvu Wind Farm commences operations.

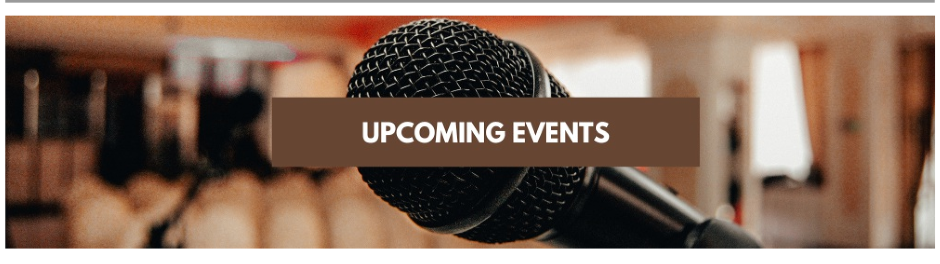
Envusa Energy proudly announced that the Umsobomvu Wind Project, boasting a capacity of 140 megawatts (MW), has officially reached its Commercial Operation Date (COD). With 380MW of the total 520MW Koruson 2 cluster now fully operational, the potential for renewable energy in South Africa is on the rise, helping to pave the way for a sustainable future.

Read more

Standard Bank and Anthem partner to deliver single largest solar PV project.

The Notsi renewable energy project in the Free State has a generation capacity of 475 MW. The electricity generated by the facility will mainly supply the commercial and industrial sectors through long-term power offtake agreements with Discovery Green and NOA Group. Once completed, the facility is expected to generate approx 1.5 million megawatt-hours of clean electricity annually.

Read more



1 May: Freedom Day
19 - 21 May: Enlit Africa **(Member discount available)**
26 May: Global Grid Expansion Dialogue Series

The Global Grid Expansion Dialogue Series (GGEDS) gears to unpack the World Energy Issues Monitor results.

The World Energy Council has released the latest global insights through the World Energy Issues Monitor. Join us as we convene a panel of industry experts to discuss what these global results rean for regional grid expansion

Register

Have something exciting to share? We're always looking to spotlight member achievements, projects and perspectives shaping South Africa's energy future. Send your articles, updates, or stories to Nikita Sadomba at nikita.sadomba@energycouncil.org.za for inclusion in our next edition.