

African Women in Energy and Power Just Energy Transition Programme



BACKGROUND

The South African government signed into effect a decarbonisation agreement at COP26, now known as the Just Energy Transition (JET) Partnership, which will effect a move toward a domestic overhaul of the energy system – moving South Africa to green energy generation systems.

Through this partnership, the state committed to undertaking a changeover from a 90% coal-generated electricity system towards a sustainable, low carbon and equitable energy system that is better for people and the planet. The need for the country to transition and incorporate renewable energy alternatives has hastened, requiring all industry players to invest more resources to ensure that this goal is realised.

Resources are needed to enable an equitable energy transition, one that truly benefits people and protects our environment. The energy transition will create a participatory renewable energy system that enables inclusive decision-making processes.

The JUST component of this transition takes into account legislation and policy for the protection of workers in legacy energy systems, where jobs are at risk. As a result, private, public sector and civil society stakeholders must work together to create tangible employment opportunities and entrepreneurial opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities to participate as value adding suppliers across emerging value chains. Stakeholders must also work collaboratively to support women to become operators, managers and leaders in municipal utilities and the energy and power ecosystem.

AWEaP's Just Energy Skills Development Programme

AWEaP conceptualised and designed the Just Energy Transition Skills Development Programme (Click here for more information: [AWEaP JET Programme](#)), targeting women in the power and energy market. It is a tailored course on the just energy transition aimed at creating an inclusive power and energy market during the transition.

AWEaP has signed an MOU with African Energy Leadership Centre of Wits Business School (WBS). The centre will become the academic partner for the programme. They will deliver a tailored curriculum for each cycle of the programme.

Power Africa has come on board as the funding partner for the pilot phase.

FUNDING PARTNER



ACADEMIC PARTNER



ENDORISING PARTNERS



Municipal electricity utilities will play a pivotal role in enabling South Africa's just energy transition programme. Therefore, the first phase of the programme, which will be delivered in Mpumalanga, is targeted at municipal officials and electricity utility officials.

The skills development course will empower women leaders, managers and operators with information that will enable them to create, drive and execute local just energy transition strategies and initiatives. This will stimulate micro-economies and provide access to the market for companies owned and led by women, youth and persons with disability.

This first-of-its-kind course will target 40 delegates from South Africa's coal hub, Mpumalanga, with current and relevant information on South Africa's Just Energy Transition policy and its impact on local economies and communities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

PHASE 1: 12-day JET programme delivered over three months - Mpumalanga

Pilot programme learning modules will cover the following topics

1. Energy Value Chains
2. Energy Policy and Regulations
3. Energy Transition in South Africa
4. Grid Management and Stability

Presented over 12 days, the programme spans a period of three months. The four tailored modules will be delivered in a hybrid-learning model, including in-person, contact sessions and remote learning.

Wits Business School lecturers will deliver the learning modules. *The academic programme commences on 3 October 2022.*

PHASE 2: 30-day JET programme delivered over six months

Phase 2 of the programme is planned for 2023 and will feature a more comprehensive curriculum.

The full programme is envisioned to cover the following areas

1. Energy Value Chains and entrepreneurial opportunities
2. Energy Entrepreneurship and Energy Project Financing
3. Strategic Management of Energy Innovation



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4. *Energy Geography and Geopolitics.*
5. *Just Energy Transition*
6. *Ethics and Corporate Governance*
7. *Introduction to Energy Policy and Regulation*
8. *Energy, Environmental Sustainability and climate justice*



This phase of the programme will be rolled out in 2023 and across the country.

Students attending the programme will be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is the Just Energy Transition?
2. How does this apply to my environment (electricity utility)?
3. How can I design a JET strategy for my organisation?
4. What benefit would the JET strategy accrue for my organisation?
5. How can I use JET to stimulate micro-economies in my jurisdiction?
6. How can I use JET to achieve our organisational socio-economic development, especially:
 - a. Gender mainstreamed procurement plans and budgets,
 - b. Youth mainstreamed procurement plans and budgets, and
 - c. Persons with disability mainstreamed procurement plans and budgets?
7. How can I facilitate operational change to align with my utility's JET ambitions?

WHO SHOULD ENROL?

This programme targets women officials within the municipal electricity utilities:

- Leaders
- Managers
- Operators

Qualifying Criteria

Delegates must meet the following qualifying criteria:

- Women employees in municipal electricity utilities
- Candidates must have post-matric qualifications with a degree preferred.
- Recognition of prior learning will be utilised in the case of candidates without a degree or diploma qualification
- 2 years minimum sector experience

How to apply

We are launching the pilot phase in August 2022; this phase will target municipal women officials from Municipalities in Mpumalanga.

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To apply, prospective candidates must follow this link: [click here](#) and complete the application form by **26 September 2022**.



PROGRAMME ADVISORY BOARD

The following industry leaders sit on the Just Energy Skills Development Programme Advisory Board.

AWEaP JET Skills Development Advisory Board	
1. Ms. Bertha Dlamini	Founding President: African Women in Energy and Power NPC (AWEaP)
2. Ms. Jayshree Pershad	Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities – South Africa (AMEU)
3. Ms. Jean Madzongwe	Transaction Advisor: Southern African Power Pool (14 member utilities representing 13 countries in Southern Africa) (SAPP)
4. Ms. Sy Gourah	Former President: South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE)
5. Dr. Cynthia Khumalo	Learning and Development – Eskom SOC – South Africa
6. Ms. Mandy Rambharos	General Manager, Just Energy Transition Office of the Group Chief Executive, Eskom Holdings
7. Ms. Lethabo Manamela	South African National Energy Development Institute Interim CEO (SANEDI)
8. Ms. Leila Mahomed-Weideman	Sustainable Energy Markets, City of Cape Town Head of JET Programmes – Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities (AMEU)
9. Ms. Ayanda Vimbi	UN Women South Africa Programme Management Specialist
10. Mr Nhlanhla Ngidi	Head of Electricity and Energy, South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
11. Dr Silas Mulaudzi	Specialist: Sustainable Energy South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
12. Mr. Mduduzi Msibi	Specialist Engineer: Energy Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA)
13. Ms. Happy Khambule	(Interim – representative) Environment and Energy Manager Business Unity South Africa (BUSA)

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PROGRAMME PARTNERS

The African Energy Leadership Centre of WBS and Power Africa are joining the pilot phase of the programme. They are responsible for delivering the academic curriculum and funding for the delegates, respectively.

Funding partner: [Power Africa](#)

Power Africa is a U.S. Government-led partnership that harnesses the collective resources of over 170 public and private sector partners to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa's goal is to add at least 30,000 megawatts of cleaner and more reliable electricity generation capacity and 60 million connections by 2030.

Local academic partner: [Wits Business School African Energy Leadership Centre](#)

The Centre was conceptualised by industry visionaries who saw the need to respond to the shortage of skills in a sector undergoing rapid disruption. While it is known that Africa has vast, untapped energy potential, and some of the fastest economic growth rates in the world, its further development is constrained by a lack of energy supply, with brownouts and blackouts regularly strangling productivity in even its most developed economies.

Ultimately, the ambition of this programme is to capacitate delegates with tangible skills to deliver solutions for the realisation of green municipal electricity utilities, to support efforts towards the country's just energy transition.

Endorsing partners

Several other industry heavyweights have shown great confidence in the merits of the JET Skills Development Programme and have become endorsing partners.

1. Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities – (AMEU)
2. South African Local Government Association – (SALGA)
3. Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disability (DWYPD)
4. Eskom
5. UN Women South Africa
6. Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA)
7. Business Unity South Africa, Energy Working Group (BUSA)
8. South African National Energy Development Institution (SANEDI)
9. BRICS Women Alliance (BRICS- BWA)
10. Women's Economic Assembly - The Presidency – (WECONA)
11. Department of Small Business Development (DSBD)
12. Southern African Power Pool (SAPP)
13. The Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency (MGCA)

ENQUIRIES

For media, programme, and general enquiries, contact:



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