

CITY OF CAPE TOWN

MEDIA RELEASE

2 DECEMBER 2011

When it comes to climate change, Cape Town is a centre of world-class knowledge and leadership

Some of the country's leading experts and institutions on climate change are based in Cape Town and are helping to get the voice of the global south heard in international arenas, such as COP17.

These people and organisations have contributed to UNFCCC reports, advised political leaders and are playing a critical role in helping to develop South Africa's mitigation and adaptation plans.

Says the City of Cape Town's Mayoral Committee Member for Economic, Environmental and Spatial Planning, Alderman Belinda Walker: "Cape Town's COP17 delegation is ensuring that its presence at the Climate Change Conference results in a lasting legacy in terms of sustainability for the city. It is sharing solutions and more importantly learning from others."

"A new climate-literate generation is being nurtured and trained as climate smart experts in urban design, engineering, service delivery and the sciences. Cape Town's leading universities and research institutions conduct world-class research and are investing heavily in climate smart innovations and technologies," Alderman Walker said.

"Having leading environmental NGOs and universities, such as Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA) and the University of Cape Town, based in Cape Town, is a big advantage. On behalf of the City, SEA, together with the Energy Research Centre at the University of Cape Town, has undertaken detailed modelling of different futures for the City, and assessed impact and cost implications of these for both the city as a whole and for municipal City coffers. The result is an Energy Scenarios Report, which includes an Optimum Energy Future for Cape Town. This directly informs the City's Energy and Climate Action Plan, which drives implementation. The work also includes the development of business plans for key projects to ensure that implementation proceeds effectively," Alderman Walker added.

DANIDA, the British High Commission, and HIVOS have funded the work. SEA also conducted the research for a report, entitled, the State

of Energy in SA Cities, 2011, launched on Wednesday at COP17. The report provides a concise assessment of the state of energy and related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in South African cities.

A discussion on the Optimum Energy Future for Cape Town and the launch of the City of Cape Town Moving Mountains publication will be held at COP17 on the Climate Smart Cape Town Pavilion this evening.

Says Alderman Walker: "We have called this publication Moving Mountains, not only because it is a catchy name that calls to mind our world-famous landmark, but also because it calls us to remember who we are. For some, to move a mountain is to attempt the impossible; there are surely those who think that reducing our carbon footprint and acting on climate change is impossible. But we in Cape Town are people who believe in positive change, who have the courage to make the difficult decisions that get us where we want to be and that is to be a city that is resilient and always acting for the common good, with social justice as our guiding principle. And we don't believe that is impossible."

Another panel discussion held yesterday at COP17 featured Hilton Trollip, Principal Engineer, Energy & Climate Change Unit, City of Cape Town. The discussion was organised by the Kwazulu Natal Sustainable Energy Forum (KSEF) and involved financiers from Standard Bank, the IDC, Eskom and private equity investors.

The result was a commitment by these companies and organisations to finance climate change related projects such as small-scale renewable electricity generation. The City is very well placed to put forward projects arising out of its Action Plan that meet the criteria of these funders to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

To download these documents, visit
www.capetown.gov.za/environmentalreports

End

Issued by: Communication Department, City of Cape Town

Media enquiries: Stephen Granger, Head: Major Programmes and Projects, Environmental Resource Management Department, City of Cape Town Mobile: 084 331 8638, E-mail stephen.granger@capetown.gov.za

What is the Cape Town Climate Change Coalition?

The Climate Smart Cape Town Pavilion at COP17 is a project of the Cape Town Climate Change Coalition (CTCCC) representing an alliance of 28 organisations and partners who are committed to knowledge sharing and capacity building with respect to climate change in the city.

All partners have signed a charter that commits them to a programme that helps to reduce carbon emissions in Cape Town, to mitigate and especially to adapt to the impacts of climate change, protecting and enhancing the natural, cultural, social and economic environment.

For further information, please visit www.climatesmartcapetown.co.za.