

Declaration on the Role of Cities in promoting Renewable Energy in South Africa

We, the participants of the Renewable Energy Mayors' Summit, having met in Stellenbosch on 13 May 2008, have:

Discussed the role that local municipalities can play in promoting the use of renewable energy sources and in developing the renewable energy sector;

Shared our experiences of renewable energy in municipalities in South Africa and other countries; and

Noted that there are barriers that impede a shift to a renewable energy future, as well as opportunities for the development of the renewable energy sector.

We:

Note that this year is the mid-term review of the of the ten year target of the Renewable Energy White Paper of National Government (DME) of 10 000 GWh by 2013;

And we:

Wish to build on previous work undertaken by local government at the City Energy Strategies conference in 2003.

Furthermore we:

Acknowledge that cities are major consumers of energy in South Africa;

Acknowledge that the conventional fossil-fuel based resources on which we currently rely are finite, and that their use has both direct and indirect impacts on the environment and on the health and welfare of our citizens;

Acknowledge that these impacts are felt disproportionately by the poor and that addressing them places strain on the resources and capacity of local government;

Note with alarm the impact that increasing fossil-fuel prices are having on every economic sector, on the economy of South Africa as a whole, and on the poor in particular, and note that renewable energy does not face the same commodity price fluctuations;

Recognise that the current energy supply shortage in South Africa provides an opportunity to shift to a more sustainable path which would provide enhanced security of supply with lower economic risks and costs;

Recognise that we, as municipalities, have a critical role in leading the way towards more sustainable energy service solutions;

Recognise that the commitment to increased utilisation of renewable energy is a key component of a future vision for energy strategies in cities, alongside energy efficiency, conservation and Demand Side Management.

We therefore call on all public sector partners to:

Support the efforts of local government to introduce renewable energy programmes;

Increase the renewable energy target and provide adequate support and incentives tailored towards mass roll out by local government;

Introduce renewable energy support mechanisms (such as a feed in tariff or tradable renewable energy certificate system) to promote the development of the renewable energy sector;

Focus on finding solutions that are applicable within the poor and working classes of our society.

We also declare:

That we, the Mayors of the participating cities, will take a leadership role in promoting and assisting the development of the renewable energy sector in our cities and elsewhere;

That the cities with which we are associated will significantly increase the proportion of local energy demand that is met from renewable energy sources by 2013.

We call on all stakeholders to work in partnership with us to achieve our objectives.

Provincial government declaration in support of the City Summit declaration

*Representatives of **Provincial Government** who attended the Renewable Energy City Summit noted the potential role that provinces can play in supporting municipalities and other stakeholders in providing renewable energy and developing the renewable energy sector.*

They expressed a wish to build the ability of provincial governments to create an enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

They acknowledged the absence of an intelligent mechanism to deal with the cross-cutting issues of renewable energy and energy efficiency; and

Expressed support for the concept of an inter-provincial energy forum where provincial governments can learn from each other and formally engage national and local government of the issues of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Stellenbosch, South Africa

13 May 2008