

ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCKS



ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY

Millions of South Africans lack access to electricity. All South Africans need access to affordable, low carbon electricity to provide for basic needs.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- ~ Draft and implement a National Low-Income Household Energy Strategy.
- ~ Prioritise energy access for those without reliable access to electricity, using renewable energy solutions which are both more affordable and accessible.
- ~ Increase electricity subsidies for low-income households.



CORPORATE AND BUSINESS REFORM

We need to move away from business as usual. Corporations need to prioritise social and environmental issues and must implement tools to reduce emissions, pollution and waste but also secure decent jobs.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- ~ There must be strict legal compliance with all environmental regulations such as air and water pollution, carbon emissions and site rehabilitation along with workplace and employment standards.
- ~ Government should monitor and enforce these obligations while the private sector must have their own transition plans, which protect workers.



SHIFT IN OWNERSHIP OF ENERGY

Using renewable energy opens up opportunities for more socially or community-owned and less corporate or privately-owned energy generation.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- ~ Support communities in setting up their own energy projects.
- ~ Include more women and youth in the energy sector.
- ~ Revise South Africa's renewable energy programme.
- ~ Support the shift from a centralised system to a decentralised energy system.



EMPOWERMENT OF WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES

Workers and communities should not shoulder the burden of shifting to a low carbon economy. We need decent jobs and economic opportunities for all to 'leave no one behind'.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- ~ Set up programmes for worker placement and re-train workers in coal and other impacted sectors.
- ~ Provide training and education for other workers in need of jobs.
- ~ Invest in infrastructure in areas in need.
- ~ Promote economic diversification and the creation of alternative industries.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND PROTECTION

Modern agriculture, mining and industrial development have degraded the quality of our soil, air and water resources. We have to restore these areas and prevent further damage.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- ~ Apply the Polluter Pays principle, ensuring polluters pay for restoration of degraded ecosystems.
- ~ South Africans need to hold government and companies accountable.
- ~ Create space for small scale agriculture which can restore and protect the environment whilst feeding people.

THE PRINCIPLES OF A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION (JET) IN SOUTH AFRICA

A shift from dirty and harmful fossil fuels to cleaner, affordable and sustainable renewable energies along with energy efficiency is needed. For this shift to be JUST and fair these building blocks are recommended as a minimum.

WE NEED ENERGY DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa needs to move from a monopolised fossil fuel dominated system, without room for meaningful engagement, to a participatory renewable energy system with inclusive decision making processes.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- ~ Conduct regular public participation and stakeholder consultations that include youth and vulnerable groups.
- ~ Draft a joint vision of JET and undertake transparent planning processes.
- ~ Set measurable goals and ensure clear accountability.
- ~ Implement measures to improve and ensure gender equality.
- ~ Educate and raise awareness on energy issues.
- ~ Look at related issues such as land and water.

