

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS on EMAIL (SENSE) number 10

Welcome to the tenth edition of the email newsletter – Sustainable Energy News (SENSE) – a service of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Partnership (SECCP), a project of Earthlife Africa Johannesburg, in partnership with WWF, Denmark.

SENSE is published monthly and we welcome any feedback and submissions. It is edited by Erika Schutze (Research and Information Co-ordinator) and Mette Nedergaard is assistant editor based in Denmark.

Please let us know if you wish to be removed from this list or suggest recipients for the list or if you would like to receive our separate Climate Change email newsletter, CCEN, edited by the facilitator of the SA Climate Action Network (SACAN), Mamashoabathe Noko.

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1. SECCP News

COP 8: SECCP contributes to Sustainable Development Policies and measures drafting process

Sustainable development requires a major change in energy development, both to move to use of resources that are renewable, rather than finite and to reduce the adverse impacts on human health and the environment – local and global - of conventional energy (fossil fuels, nuclear power and large dams). In South Africa there are powerful vested interests resisting any significant change from business-as-usual: the Integrated Electricity Outlook (20-year timeframe - produced by Eskom and the National Electricity Regulator) make it clear that renewable energy technologies are at this stage viewed as nothing more than window-dressing. One dynamic that may help to change this is engagement with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Some of the most interesting developments that took place during COP8 (the eighth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC) in New Delhi last month were outside of the official proceedings. While the USA, Australia, Iran and Saudi Arabia blatantly obstructed proceeding and endeavoured to undermine existing agreements within the Convention, the global Climate Action Network (CAN) held a series of meetings to develop the draft position paper on Equity. SECCP and other South Africans participated in the process, with the SECCP Co-ordinator convening the working group dealing with the sections on SD PAMs, global justice, energy targets and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Export Credit Agencies (ECAs).

Immediately prior to the COP there was a meeting to consider the 'Non-Paper' (draft material not yet endorsed) that resulted from the CAN Equity Summit held in May. The process aims to establish an optimum global emissions scenario for avoiding "dangerous climate change" (i.e. the best possible pathway to stabilisation of greenhouse gasses), and then in a fair and equitable manner to determine the rights and responsibilities of the parties (countries which signed the UNFCCC) within that scenario. Basically this means working out the

specifics of the 'common but differentiated responsibilities', including the necessary targets for industrialised countries and the extent of 'space for development' and recommended actions for developing countries. While the pursuit of equity requires that industrialised countries (the major cause of global warming) rapidly achieve deep cuts in their greenhouse gas emissions (the scientists suggest 60 – 80% within a generation), if there is to be any chance of eventually stopping the increase in global average temperature, the developing countries will need to take action as well. The sooner developing countries (DCs) integrate climate change issues into development planning, the less the cost and greater the public benefit will be. Equity also requires that national circumstances, including vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, inform the kind and level of action expected of DCs.

One suggestion for breaking the persisting dead-lock between those calling for greater "participation of developing countries" and those insisting that the north show real achievements first, is to present the adoption of policies and measures (e.g. regulations), that are designed to achieve sustainable development but will also serve to mitigate or adapt to climate change, as commitments that should be recognised under the convention. This 'SD PAMs Approach' would give formal recognition to existing actions in DCs and some obligation for industrialised countries to provide financial support.

One approach to energy is to develop policies to de-link economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions (or carbon-intensity) through both energy efficiency and using renewable energy (diversification); this is the core of what is called 'decarbonising the economy'. Another essential energy policy is subsidy reform – phasing out subsidies to conventional energy and introducing legitimate, including financial, support systems to achieve access to sustainable energy. Such policies would deliver substantial public benefits at the national level while also addressing possibly the most threatening global issue.

SD PAMs should also address other issues to deliver both national and global benefits, e.g. product stewardship and ecologically sound waste management practices; comprehensive forest policies, including sustainably managed forests for biomass energy and non-energy wood products, forest conservation policies for valuable ecosystems, and providing for local ownership and management by indigenous/local populations; ecologically sound agriculture, food security and resource conservation policies and measures that support sustainable livelihoods, reduce the vulnerability of communities to climate change and mitigate GHG emissions.

Article 4.3 of the UNFCCC calls for financial resources and technology transfer from industrialised countries to support mitigation activities in DCs. Rather than waiting for the Clean Development Mechanism (of the Kyoto Protocol) to provide some marginal contribution to clean energy development, we should be insisting that national policies with global benefits receive direct financial support. One such policy is due to be considered by cabinet any day now, South Africa's White Paper on the Promotion of Renewable Energy and Clean Energy Development (Part 1).

SECCP convenes S-N-S Workshop in India

SECCP held a workshop in New Delhi, prior to COP8 to explore the development of South-North-South NGO partnerships. Participants were invited to participate in an open-ended discussion of the potential for and possible nature of partnership arrangements for inter-regional co-operation on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change – linking Southern Africa with Southern Asia (South & South-East) with the participation of Northern, possibly Danish, partners.

International negotiations and decisions on climate change will have profound impact on the structures of society, on economic and social development, as well as on the environment. International processes are impacted by an inherent North-South conflict, which at its worst pits the North seeking environmental decisions against the South wanting to promote development. The North is able to mobilise extensive human and financial resources both to official delegations and NGO participation on climate change issues. These inequalities will grow in the future as climate change and energy issues become more complex and comprehensive. Building alliances and partnerships between Southern and Northern NGOs will thus be increasingly important in order to optimise NGO influence and introduce new solutions.

The idea of South-North-South partnerships is that while Southern NGOs can learn from each other to address common concerns and challenges, building solidarity around common objectives to strengthen advocacy and develop a stronger voice in international fora, there is also a need for information flow from South to North and financial support from North to South.

Participants came from organisations ranging from a 'think-tank' to an implementation (project facilitation) agency; there was some divergence of interests between the policy-oriented organisations and those more concerned with practical demonstration and sharing /dissemination of experience. Participants were generally more interested in linking on-going work at the national level than initiating a project focusing on international negotiations.

No specific ideas were tabled to take the initiative forward, but an area where partnership may be appropriate, (as opposed to networking and information-sharing), was explored in some detail: this consisted mostly of policy work, including deriving policy from practical experience in project implementation. There was interest in the impacts of energy sector restructuring – including but not limited to electricity supply and privatisation.

A number of areas of interest were identified and clustered as follows:

Promoting general awareness of energy and climate issues & addressing restructuring; policy development (particularly moving to needs-driven, bottom-up approach); information-sharing and capacity building (including technical capacity at grassroots level), & demonstration of strategies to achieve access to energy services, particularly in rural areas, (including determining appropriate mix of small-scale technologies and opportunities for technology transfer, needs-based research and organisation of end-users).

Regarding partnerships: it was noted that need or desire for partnerships should be informed by the nature of desired outputs; a shared vision must be established at the outset, with all having something to give and something to gain and organisations or projects with a short-term or uncertain life-cycle are not good prospective partners. Challenging areas for formalised relationships include development of common/shared materials and shared use of logos. Quite a lot of bureaucracy and a great deal of trust are required and clear governance procedures must be established. Regarding a northern partner: a development organisation would be more appropriate than a campaigning organisation, at least for formal partnership arrangements.

A way forward for possible development of a project idea, centred on awareness and restructuring, was discussed. If Earthlife Africa Johannesburg is positive and interested parties contribute to a Project Idea Document, SECCP will convene a project development workshop in South Africa in February 2003.

Sustainable Energy Policy Collaboration (SEPCo) Workshop

In early November SECCP participated in the second South African SEPCo workshop convened to discuss and develop principles and plans for feasible instruments for more sustainable energy service delivery. Plenary sessions and two parallel workshops focused on principles for a regulation to foster electricity generation from renewable energies and on the design and implementation of energy centres and agencies. Civil society was well represented, as was the NER, but there was general disappointment that only one person from the DME attended parts of the proceedings on each day.

A representative of the lead agent for SECCP's research study on Policies and Measures for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in South Africa reported on progress and explained the scenarios that are currently being modelled. The research study should be ready for public release by mid February, in time to inform input to the Strategy that will be developed by DME following adoption of the policy. Policies and economic instruments will be assessed separately and in combination, with legal analysis for consistency with current and emerging policy and legislation. Since the modelling of the scenarios will be using the same data and assumptions as the official Integrated Energy Plan and Electricity Outlook, we are hopeful that government will give due consideration to the results. (Note: hit your browsers refresh button to see the latest postings.)

PAMs study to be under consideration for IPCC report

SECCP's main focus research being undertaken by EDRC entitled "Policies and Measures for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency" will be completed by March 2003. It appears that the relevance of this study will extend beyond the boundaries of South Africa. At COP 8 the IPCC indicated that it would be interested in PAMs for the fourth assessment report since there is a growing belief that largest strategic area for greenhouse gas reduction will come from domestic policies and measures and not CDM type arrangements. The IPCC will over the next couple of years be reviewing published documents that relate to PAMs and prepare some analysis thereof. In other words, PAMs should receive greater importance in future as a means for climate change mitigation.

Translated brochures available

SECCP's brochures "Climate Change can be deadly"; "Renewable Energy is People's Power" and "Energy Efficiency is a Winner" have been translated into Zulu and South Sotho. If you would like copies, email Lerato

on seccp@earthlife.org.za with your postal address and indicating how many copies you would like and what they will be used for.

Research and Information co-ordinator position available

As of the end of 2002, Erika Schutze will be leaving the project to pursue studies and freelance projects in Cape Town. The above post is available and the deadline for applications has been extended to November 22. This project aims to link renewable energy and energy efficiency to advocacy around climate change, to influence relevant development policies.

Post requires: Matric & relevant tertiary qualification; driver's licence; communication skills incl. fluency in English and at least one other official language; good writing and computer skills; knowledge of relevant issues; a strong, documented track record and demonstrable skills; ability to share responsibilities; enthusiasm and commitment.

Duties include: drafting advocacy campaign materials, policy alternatives and position papers; preparing publications for printing; local and international information dissemination/exchange; producing e-mail newsletter; organizing stakeholder workshops. Experience of energy sector and/or publishing and/or research management an advantage.

Send CV and a letter of motivation (no certificates) to: seccp@earthlife.org.za or Fax (011) 339 3270 or P O Box 11383, Jhb, 2000. Earthlife Africa Jhb is an equal opportunity employer.

2. SA's renewable energy progress

Are Tradable Renewable Energy Certificates (TRECs) simply carrots without sticks?

At a recent Sustainable Energy Policy Concepts for South Africa (SEPCO) workshop principles and plans for feasible instruments for more sustainable energy service delivery were discussed and developed. In plenary sessions the focus shifted to principles for a regulation to foster electricity generation from renewable energies and on the design and implementation of energy centres and agencies.

The latter refers to the idea of a national network of local/decentral energy centres in combination with national and regional energy agencies. The overall idea is to implement institutional structures which are appropriate to support both energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, as well as to close the gap between policy and strategy that helps to implement sustainable energy projects. The workshop was based on the success of similar projects in Germany and Mexico.

The workshop on principles for a regulation to foster RE electricity generation aimed to discuss principles for designing a regulation that fosters the use of renewable energies in the electricity sector, taking the draft White Paper "On promotion of Renewable Energy and Clean Energy Development" as a departure point. European experiences of feed-in regulations were considered. An internet-based forum for post-workshop discussions led to a polemic on the viability of certificates as a way of ushering in RE.

Most participants in the workshop on regulatory measures favoured adoption of a feed-in law (a prescribed tariff) for electricity from renewable resources, rather than a quota or Renewable Portfolio Standard, and there was some consideration of the use of certificates as a supplement to regulation.

Everyone at the workshop agreed that there should be a levy or tax on fossil fuels (and nuclear power) to supply a fund to support research, development and demonstration of Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) and energy efficiency and support development of local industries.

One prevailing RE governance model was the RE portfolio standard or quota system – all distributors are obliged by law to source a certain portion of their electricity from renewables. The certificates are then a way of tracking who sells what to whom. It is envisaged that the National Electricity Regulator would issue these certificates upon proof of generation. These would be accompanied by penalties if the quota is not met with the fine going into a fund promoting the research the development of RE. This would not only counter the subsidies that fossil fuels have always enjoyed, but also to compensate for the high investment risks of RE since most of the cost of RETs lies in actually getting the plant up and running after which there are no fuel costs, few service costs and few staff. Thus there is a high investment risk that needs to be compensated for with an assurance that, once produced, the RE will be bought. Feed-in laws would set the price (with an annual review) and this would ensure security of market for the generator.

A strong case was made for tradable certificates citing the many benefits: off-grid (or non-grid) electrification; non-electrical renewable energy technologies (such as SWH); demand side management programmes (which require baselines); regional and international trade. For the consumer, certificates generally bypass the need

for having to buy storage technology for RE (one of the factors that pushes up the cost) since the grid now becomes the storage house.

Some participants felt that promoting voluntary initiatives, such as Tradable Renewable Energy Certificates (TRECs), might be a useful compliment, but must not be seen as the primary vehicle for promoting RETs since they would not achieve the essential change in direction of energy development as part of a national policy and strategy. Another disadvantage of TRECs is that greenhouse gas mitigation is not one of the attributes valued within the certificate.

There are also inherent dangers whereby certificates end up becoming pollution credit trading. Such problems surround the disaggregation of other benefits (avoided SO_x, NO_x, VOCs, oil imports...), in particular the way that emissions trading in the US has helped to perpetuate environmental racism – dirty plants close to communities of colour allowed to continue heavy pollution that is off-set elsewhere.

It was suggested that schemes like TRECs should have a limited lifespan as renewable energy development is desirable in itself and is in some cases commercially competitive with fossils and will become increasingly so, and a call for a transition to a situation where penalties for pollution are so strong that incentives for environmentally sound practice are no longer needed. Carrots without sticks will not get rid of unacceptable practices, facilities and impacts (achieving the social benefits of sustainable development will require incentives but tradable certificates don't particularly serve this goal anyway, although some benefits would result).

On a global scale, it was pointed out that the international sale of TRECs brings strategic considerations regarding the current status of the Kyoto Protocol, and US (and other) efforts to terminate its implementation; TRECs may be offered as an alternative to the Protocol 'credits', without the explicit link to sustainable development and to national and legally binding GHG reduction targets, and also undermining a multilateral approach to tackling climate change.

The sale of TRECs makes it possible to buy virtual green power anywhere, even if our electricity supplier doesn't offer it. Some were of the opinion that if RETs are to be deployed as rapidly and as universally as possible; a mechanism that encourages only the most affordable projects, while legitimising business as usual in particular areas, may serve to defer urgently needed action.

To enter the debate, join the online discussion forum at: <http://www.ises.org/SepcoDiscuss.nsf>

Incinerator proposal for Sasolburg defeated by Civil Society groups

The Sasolburg Environmental Committee together with groundWork and other national and international civil society groups joined forces to halt the proposed development of a hazardous waste incinerator in Sasolburg. The Free State government has disapproved the construction of the incinerator that, were it developed, would have been the largest hazardous waste incinerator in Southern Africa. The rejection the proposal comes exactly one month after the South African government ratified the Stockholm Convention, which calls for the elimination of dioxins, one of the main by-products of the incineration process.

Full News24 report: www.news24.co.za

Visit the GroundWork website for press releases: www.groundwork.org.za

For more info on the health effects of dioxins: archive.greenpeace.org

South Durban community bears pollution consequences while State, Durban Unicity and industry push through refinery plans without consultation

Rates of asthma in South Durban are 29 times higher than the national average. The very many SAPREF incidents over the last two years, including toxic leaks that led to evacuations, clearly indicate that the refinery is in a critical state. None of these industries have been prosecuted, or their managers been held accountable for the deaths of workers. There is also no evacuation plan however for the residents in the South Durban area.

Among other measures, The South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) scheduled a community meeting for September 30 with ENGEN who then refused to come to the meeting, claiming they have been insulted in the past. They also claim to be an environmentally friendly company but have refused to give details on what equipment they have installed and what they are spending to be more environmentally friendly. They attribute the heinous pollution in South Durban to domestic coal use when it's obvious that the oil refineries are culpable.

Similarly, when SDCEA requests information from SAPREF, they are instructed to go to the Ministry of Justice and use the Promotion of Access to Information Act. SDCEA requests for information about emissions and

pollution, result in the dispatching of brochures with photos of plants and flowers that have no bearing on the request.

The Durban Unicity has failed to prosecute polluting industries when there are clear cases of criminal negligence against them. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Durban said they are "too busy with other meetings" to attend to the concerns of the community, even though SDCEA phoned and faxed them more than 7 times! Since ENGEN and the Mayor refused to come to the community, on October 22 all community members went to a Multi-Stakeholder Report back on the Multi Point Plan (MPP). This is one of the few legitimate regular gatherings where community people of South Durban have direct access to political representation. It soon emerged that there were development plans taking place without consultation.

In a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) publication of June 2002 for the National Council of Provinces, it is recorded that "discussions have been held with SAPREF, Engen and Sasol Polymers (sic) to start developing a petro-chemical hub located at a site next to the Durban International Airport". It is alarming to note that while the Minister of Trade and Industry, the MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, SAPREF and Engen shared the ownership of the MPP at its initiation in 2000, the spirit of openness and mutual sharing of a common strategy for South Durban is limited to industry and state with the community having to bear the pollution consequences. While discussions continue within the MPP forum, no action has been taken by government against industry for the very many SO₂ exceedances at the various monitoring stations in the South Durban area.

The SDCEA has requested a full report from the Minister and the MEC on the status of this debate: what development plans and types of industry are being discussed, what the time frames are, who the potential investors are and records of minutes of meetings. These discussions have a material impact upon the future of South Durban and SDCEA views the exclusion of civil society from this debate as unconstitutional.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

In September 2000, Minister Valli Moosa stated that the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) together with the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAE) would consider the communities' concerns around EIA. Since then various meetings have been held with the DAE, the Durban Mayor, but little progress has been made with regard to the concerns highlighted by the community in terms of EIA. In fact the concerns around EIAs have grown recently and records of decisions (ROD) have been granted without proper EIA being conducted. The DAE has failed to come up with a strategy of dealing with the very many EIAs - 64 from January 2001 to March 2002 - that both the DAE and the community are faced with in the South Durban area. The SDCEA has forwarded a strategy to the DAE, but have not had a response from the DAE, nor an alternative strategy.

Coupled with the unconstitutionality of the manner in which EIAs are being undertaken, the Major Hazardous Installations (MHI) and the EIA regulations do not dovetail. EIAs can now be granted before the comment period for the MHI is run its due course. The SDCEA has thus requested a formal response from the DAE on the SDCEA's proposal and a draft strategy the DAE is considering to deal with the very many EIAs in the South Durban area.

The SDCEA is concerned that when the local officials sought to take legal action against SAPREF, Mayor Mlaba intervened and rather sought to "engage" with a multi-national that is responsible for placing peoples' lives at risk constantly in South Durban.

Furthermore, the dirty fuels debate has been delayed by government indecision and industrial interference. What was to be a South Durban debate has been moved to the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) where there is no community representation. Government must develop a plan to ensure that industries in South Durban have access to clean fuel. The pricing structure for gas supply to South Durban should be publicised in order that the cost of this gas could be debated. If there is a fear of industries migrating out of Durban as a result of stronger regulations, then the argument that industries migrate to zones with lax regulations hold true. Incineration of waste is a dirty fuel, and the SDCEA will oppose such developments which go against the grain of the MPP.

SDCEA has requested government to place a plan on the table to inform debate on clean fuels in South Durban, taking into consideration the very many incentives industry has for developing in South Durban. It has asked for a review of all present incentives for industrial development in South Durban, both hidden and those already made public, to be presented by government at the next meeting. *For more information call Desmond D'Sa on 083 9826939 or Anna Weekes on 4611991 or 083 7141899.*

Multifunctional platforms increase quality of lives of rural women

A recently released study on the impact of multifunctional platforms onto the lives of women has found them to significantly improve the lives of rural women. The machine that crushes, grinds and shreds, saws, drills and welds, pumps water and generates power, runs on nuts is a mill improving the lot of hundreds of women in Mali and Burkina Faso.

The "multipurpose platform of equipment and machinery" was developed in association with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the UN Industrial Development Organization. The \$6,000 machine's main application is food processing: it crushes peanuts and the seeds of the shea tree, it hulls rice, maize and sorghum, and it generates enough electricity to light an entire village. An electric water pump is easily attached.

The engine was originally designed to run on diesel fuel, but has since been modified to allow oil from indigenous *Jatropha Curcas* nuts to be used as a fuel.

The study assessed the impact of the multipurpose platform on the lives of women and found the following:

- The cumulated time saved in a week by a woman for cereal processing (millet, sorghum and maize) is equivalent to an eight-hour workday.
- The husking of 28 kilos of paddy is done in little less than one hour (56 minutes) instead of 48 hours by hand. This has resulted in an annual average production increase from 250-300 to 600 kilos of paddy per woman, and the generation of a new money income of 50,000 CFA per season.
- As for shea butter, the amount of time saved, thanks to mechanical grinding is of about four hours. Moreover, the amount of butter has increased of one kilo for each 10 kilos ground. This increase is also illustrated by a jump of women's annual income from 23,800 to 70,875 CFA.
- Time saving has enabled women, based on their situation, to increase the surface of cultivated land and consequently their production, with a special emphasis on more profitable products in terms of marketing (export products), such as rice and cotton, and to improve the yield of individual peanut fields, due to better weeding.
- Small businesses developed: buying and reselling of agricultural products, handicrafts, fish by-products, and the processing and sale of various condiments.
- A relatively important amount of money is redistributed to women who operate platforms in the form of weekly wages, based on the volume of activities, the type and number of modules installed, the number of clients and the condition of the engine and its equipment. This money is poured into village credit funds and allows women the access to micro funding.
- The improvement of girls school performance since the installation of platforms is characterized by the drop of girls lateness, as they are no longer burdened by the morning tasks of grain pounding and water fetching before going to school; their presence at school is also more regular as their mothers do not keep them home all day long to help with household duties at the occurrence of family celebrations. In addition, the increase of women's income since the installation of the platform (especially in Bougouni-Sikasso areas) has enabled them to invest part of this income in the education of their children (supply of school materials).
- The combination of the three factors (financial, technical, and the approach of targeting women in the project for the acquisition and the management of platforms) has a direct consequence of "introducing women in the circle of official decision-makers" at the village level, which would be otherwise impossible without their official integration in decision-making bodies and mechanisms existing within their respective communities.

5. SA Energy Bills & conferences

Air Quality Management Bill

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is hoping to have Cabinet approve a draft Bill for release for public comment at the last meeting of Cabinet in 2002 on the 4 December. The draft Bill will then be released for public comment almost immediately.

The Department has indicated that there are still a few issues that need to be finalised before the Bill can be sent to Cabinet. If these issues are not finalised before early december, the draft Bill will only go to Cabinet, and be released to the public, early in 2003.

The Department is currently drafting new legislation to repeal the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965. This new legislation shall incorporate pollution standards and establish time frames and mechanisms for compliance. For more information contact Tsietsi Mahema at (012) 310 3404

The World Wind Energy Conference and Renewable Energy Exhibition 2003

Cape Town, South Africa, 23-26 November 2003

The World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition which will take place in the new Cape Convention Centre in Cape Town from 23-26 November 23-26, promoted by the World Wind Energy Association WWEA and organised by the African Wind Energy Association.

The World Wind Energy Association WWEA, has been founded in July 2001 to promote wind energy worldwide. It has attracted more than 50 members from 32 countries on five continents, of which the majority is drawn from national wind energy associations and scientific organisations. WWEA is also co-operating with the World Council for Renewable Energies in order to work for the substitution of all pollution and hazardous waste causing energy technologies.

To date the biggest WWEA event was the World Wind Energy Conference 2002 in Berlin from 2-6 July 2002, organised by the German Wind Energy Association BWE. Almost 600 visitors from 52 countries attended the conference to discuss the global perspectives of wind energy. In Berlin it became clear, that it is now time to discuss the political, economic and technical frameworks for the broadest possible dissemination of wind energy especially in the developing world and in Africa. The results of the Johannesburg WSSD demonstrated clearly that concrete steps have to be taken soon. Therefore the World Wind Energy Conference 2003 in Cape Town, supported by the South African Ministry for Minerals and Energy, will focus on the instruments and frameworks necessary to ensure the success of wind energy in these countries.

Africa has pioneering wind energy countries in the North and South of the continent (Egypt, Morocco & SA). Hopefully the Conference will raise awareness of the positive contribution of renewable energies to development and to the realisation that it can avoid international conflicts caused by limited fossil resources. South Africa may thus become an example for many African countries and may help to break through the vicious circle of depending on energy imports and higher debts prohibiting sustainable development. Contact Hermann Oelsner; AFRIWEA; TEL/FAX: +27 (0)22 492 3095

Conference on Local Authority Energy Strategies

Energy plays a central role in the functioning of cities. South African cities are, however, very new to the current energy debate. There are a few programmes which are starting to address some of the issues, such as Sustainable Energy for Environment and Development (SEED) Programme (a national capacity building and partnership programme focusing on low income energy issues) and the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection campaign. South African cities have been focused on electricity distribution and there has been little to no coordination across related energy issues

Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA) is proposing to hold a conference on Local Authority Energy strategies for March 2003. This conference would draw international and national participants together for inspiration and debate.

The conference would aim to:

- Provide inspiration to the major stakeholders in South Africa's larger cities
- Provide a forum for information sharing and debate
- To initiate the development of local authority energy strategy programmes
- To build a foundation for supporting the development of such strategies

For more information contact Sarah Ward at Sustainable Energy Africa: P O Box 261, NOORDHOEK, 7979
Tel : + 27 -21- 789-2920.

6. Questions & Answers

What are the outcomes of the WSSD EU Initiative and the Brazilian energy initiative?

There was an 'informal' gathering of governments hosted by the EU at COP 8. This involved lots of discussion, but no particular conclusions. A number of countries expressed their willingness to work with the EU including Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, New Zealand, Mexico and Brazil. The group of countries has increased since the summit and has been named "the group of like-minded countries".

Denmark as president of the EU has contacted all UN countries with the aim of getting confirmation on the intention to participate in the group. According the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affair, Uganda and Brazil are engaged very actively.

The intention is to meet in the margins of international conferences to discuss how to proceed. Germany will be hosting an international conference on renewable energy in 2004 as part of their activities to promote targets on renewable energy. Brazil as a G77 member is regarded an extremely important player, and the EU is hoping that Brazil would take the lead in the further work in order to get more developing countries to join.

November 12 and 13 saw a 'technical' meeting in Sao Paolo hosted by Jose Goldemberg with participants from, Denmark, UK, France and Tuvalu. They are supposed to try to bridge the gap between the various EU proposals and the Brazilian proposal.

In the meantime, Dr. Goldemberg has come up with a 'post WSSD' version of the Brazilian Initiative.

If the technical meeting goes well, then there is supposed to be a Latin America wide consultation process led by the outgoing Brazilian government and then some sort of formal signing ceremony in Brussels as a legacy issue for Fernando Henrique.

What will come of this is unclear. Rumour has it that his new Energy minister will be Luis Pinguelli Rosa, who is good on most energy subjects, but is pro-nuke. The Brazilian energy council pushed any decisions on the new reactor off until at least May 2003, by setting a series of conditions that the new reactor couldn't possibly meet.

As far as the EU, Greenpeace is currently fighting hard against a nuclear initiative which would pass liability for long-term storage and some parts of decommissioning of the nuclear industry away from private industry onto the state(s), which of course would be an economic disaster. – *Steve Sawyer, Greenpeace & Mette Nedergaard, WWF-DK.*

For a copy of the Brazilian initiative and/or a description of the EU initiative on energy for poverty and a paper Ms Nedergaard produced for Danish NGOs on possibilities for NGO action on the initiative, email erika@earthlife.org.za.