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# EXPERIENCE THE EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE

Building the capacity of South African municipalities to inspire the world

## GO BEYOND THE HOUR

In a few short years, the World Wide Fund for Nature's annual Earth Hour campaign, which asks citizens and businesses to switch off their lights for an hour in support of efforts against climate change, has successfully raised climate change awareness across the globe.

But the symbolic act of switching off our lights is not enough. Building on the support of individuals and cities, the Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) is a way to enable local governments to take the lead in combatting climate change.



## ENABLING CITIES TO LEAD ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Earth Hour City Challenge is an initiative designed by WWF, in partnership with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, to mobilise action and support from cities in the global transition towards a climate-friendly, 100% - renewable future. It also aims to stimulate the development and dissemination of best practices for climate mitigation and adaptation.

It is run as a recurrent and increasingly global challenge where municipalities are invited to present ambitious, holistic, inspiring and credible plans for low-carbon development and for dramatically increasing the use of sustainable and efficient renewable energy solutions in the future.

While the EHCC is a global competition, it recognises the different challenges and priorities faced by different municipalities around the world.

## TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE



EHCC 2014-2015

In 2014-15, four eligible South African cities submitted their applications via the carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR), an internationally recognised climate reporting platform for cities managed by ICLEI.

In total, the four cities reported 176 actions, as well as their greenhouse gas inventories and commitments to reduce energy and CO2 emissions. The actions reported ranged from solar water heater programmes to bus rapid transport systems and municipal energy efficiency initiatives.

Strategies were evaluated by an international jury consisting of experts in areas ranging from urban planning and transport to consumer behaviour and energy systems.

The international jury named Tshwane South Africa's national Earth Hour Capital.

This year, the same adjudication process will take place and the 2015-16 Global Earth Hour Capital will be presented in March/April 2016.

For more information on the 2015-16 competition and Tshwane's win, visit [www.wwf.org.za/ehcc/](http://www.wwf.org.za/ehcc/)

## WHY TAKE PART IN EHCC 2015-16?

- Stand the chance to win the national competition and be named SA Earth Hour Capital.
- Win the prize of a marketing video showcasing the work of the national winner.
- Receive one of three available city Strategic Review Workshops, including a one-day, facilitated stock-taking session on your climate change plans.
- Apply for one of two city-based WWF-led citizen engagement initiatives.
- Share your experiences via facilitated municipal learning exchanges on specific topics.
- Make use of marketing/infographic brochure summarising your actions and commitments.
- Benefit from feedback from experts on your entry to the cCCR.
- Demonstrate your commitment to sustainable development to partners and citizens.
- Market and profile your municipality's efforts worldwide as a green and low-carbon investment destination.
- Showcase planned municipal actions and commitments to potential funders.

## THEMATIC FOCUS FOR 2014-15: TRANSPORT

By 2050 more than two-thirds of the global population will live in cities. Already, 62% of people in South Africa live in urban areas, and that number is growing. As more people move to cities and towns, pressure on our energy resources increases.

Within this context, mobility is a particularly important issue. In South Africa the transport sector is the second highest GHG emitter, contributing an estimated 13% to South Africa's overall GHG emissions.

Reducing transport emissions by reducing the movement of goods and people; shifting to low-carbon modes of transport; and improving mobility services and energy and fuel efficiency, will go a long way towards building more sustainable cities.

This year's competition has a national focus on sustainable transport, in addition to the global theme of renewable energy.



## GET READY FOR THE EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE 2016-17

Participation in the global 2015-16 challenge is limited to those municipalities with a quantitative reduction target in policy related to energy efficiency, renewable energy or emissions.

This year, a parallel national competition is taking place in recognition of secondary municipalities' transition towards sustainability. We invite secondary municipalities with actions relating to climate change mitigation or adaptation, or food/energy/waste/water resource efficiency to take part. The winning municipality can avail of a pre-feasibility assessment for building retrofit! Interested municipalities can complete an application form.

Don't delay: contact ICLEI Africa to ensure you can make your entry before the 25 September 2015 submission deadline.

If not, now is the time to get ready for Earth Hour City Challenge 2016-17, which promises to give you even more national and global exposure. Get ready by:

- Investigating what strategies, policies and plans are already in place to support energy efficiency, renewable energy.
- Contact your Provincial government to find out what support programmes are available.
- Contact ICLEI Africa or the partners listed below to get support and assistance to strategise for the future, conduct emissions inventories, analyse plans and actions, and to design policies and projects.

## CONTACT

For more information go to: [www.wwf.org.za/ehcc/](http://www.wwf.org.za/ehcc/)

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### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[www.panda.org/citychallenge](http://www.panda.org/citychallenge)