

Establishment of eThekwini Energy Office [eThekwini (Durban), KwaZulu-Natal]

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Timeframe: June 2007 to December 2010

Funding: R2 100 000

Category: Sustainable Energy and Climate Change

Objective

The objective of this initiative was to establish a formal structure (the eThekwini Energy Office) within the eThekwini Municipality to manage energy and climate change mitigation programs.

Background and Context

Prior to the establishment of the Energy Office, the responsibility for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation was not clearly defined within the municipal structure. There was also no clear policy directing energy related matters in the city. However, nationally the energy supply crisis had begun to manifest itself and cities were mandated with energy efficiency responsibilities through programs such as the power conservation program. The eThekwini Municipality then embarked on a concerted energy efficiency drive, which resulted in the formulation of the eThekwini Energy Strategy and the establishment of the eThekwini Energy Office in February 2009.

Process

The eThekwini Energy Office was located within the Treasury Department of the municipality and works in coordination with the electricity department, traffic department, housing department, and environmental management department to design and conceptualise various energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) programmes. The energy office's initial focus has been on implementing a wide range of programmes specifically targeted at improving the EE of municipal infrastructure. These include retrofitting LED street lights, installing SWHs in municipal buildings, swimming pool pump efficiencies, computer server consolidation, air conditioning improvements and building insulation. In January 2010, the eThekwini Council adopted the eThekwini Energy Strategy, which significantly broadened the mandate and responsibility of the energy office. The Energy Strategy lists a number of key strategic interventions with associated timeframes, responsibilities and key stakeholders. It should also be noted that the Energy Office operates primarily at a strategic and executive level and has limited technical capacity.

Challenges, lessons learnt, experience

The key challenge during the establishment of the Energy Office was in identifying the institutional home for the unit. The responsibility of the Energy Office covers a range of departmental areas, such as electricity, transport, environment, housing and finance and therefore the institutional reporting line needs to cover a range of departments. The Energy Office is currently situated in the Treasury department of the municipality and the ultimate long terms home still needs to be finalised.

The lessons learnt include the importance of a comprehensive and pragmatic energy policy for the city. The action plans in the eThekwini Energy Strategy have ensured that a great deal of the underpinning planning and research for renewable energy and energy efficiency targets within the

eThekwini Municipal Area has already been completed. The actions are very pragmatic and implementable and go a long way to creating a framework for the operation of the energy office in the city.

The establishment of the Energy Office is one of the key successes of the UEMP program for the city. The Energy Office is currently implementing a range of programs and projects related to energy and climate change mitigation in the city. The office is also very pro-active in engaging the residential and industrial customers in the city to assist with reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gases.

Outcome

The key outcome from this program, was the establishment of the eThekwini Energy Office. More detail of the energy office can be found here: <http://durbanportal.net/energy>

Scorecards

- **Criteria for assessment of activities, rank 1 to 5 as follows:**
- **1 - inadequate, 2 – needs improvement, 3 – adequate, 4 – good, 5 – excellent**

INPUT	1	2	3	4	5
1. Did you have adequate internal resources to implement your project?			X		
2. Did you have adequate funding for your project?					X
3. Did you have adequate technical expertise to implement your project?			X		

Total 11

UEMP VISION & GOALS	1	2	3	4	5
1. To what degree did your project have a focus on poverty reduction?	X				
2. To what extent was this project relevant to the targeted beneficiaries?				X	
3. To what extent will this project be replicated sustainably in the future?				X	

Total 9

EXTERNAL	1	2	3	4	5
1. To what extent did the project impact on vertical national - provincial - municipal linkages?			X		
2. To what extent did this project improve linkages (horizontal) with similar UEMP partners?			X		
3. Did the project have a higher than expected impact on stakeholders?				X	

Total 10

INTERNAL	1	2	3	4	5
1. Did you have adequate support from management to implement this project?				X	
2. To what extent did the project link with other priorities of the organisation?					X

3. Did the project have a higher than expected impact in your organisation?					X
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Total 14

OUTPUT	1	2	3	4	5
1. To what extent did your project have tangible benefits?					X
2. To what extent did your project fulfil its aims?					X
3. Was this project a cost effective response to the problem addressed?					X

Total 15