



Edition 02

COP 17/CMP 7

117 DAYS TO GO!

Durban



190 NATIONS, 20 000 PEOPLE, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUE IN THE WORLD, ONE GREAT CITY - DURBAN!

Every month, we'll be bringing you news, interviews, tips and a whole lot more about climate change, COP17/CMP7 and Durban's role in all of this. We will keep you informed of the progress in the build-up to the event, in the hope that the significance of COP17/CMP7 will leave its mark on you and all the other residents of our city.

Message from His Worship, Mayor James Nxumalo



For Durban to have been selected as host City to COP17/CMP7 fills me with great pride. As the leadership of eThekweni we're pleased that the Municipality, through its various departments, is working to ensure that the legacy of COP17/CMP7 lives on long after its 20 000+ delegates have left our beautiful part of the land. There are a number of innovative greening and energy initiatives in progress that will help ensure Durban's eventual place amongst the most sustainable Cities in the world, and that will also drastically minimise the carbon footprint of the COP17/CMP7 event itself. The global climate crisis is forcing us to live in a sustainable and responsible way. I am grateful that we have amongst us such a strong group of passionate and concerned environmentalists, climatologists and renewable energy advocates who will work with us to achieve this. The message of safe guarding the environment needs to be taken beyond professional debates, to actual practice in the communities within which we live. Creating a sustainable city is contained in the Integrated Development Plan as one of the long-term goals of the Municipality. I call on all communities to support us in creating a better Durban for our future generations by taking action now!

What is our City doing?

As part of Durban's commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation, the former Mayor of Durban, Cllr Obed Mlaba, joined the World Mayors' Council on Climate Change (WMCCC) in May 2010, with the goal of ensuring that the voice of African cities is more strongly represented in the international climate debate. The Mexico City Pact (MCP) was launched at the World Mayors' Summit on Climate Change that was held in Mexico City on 21 November 2010. As of June 2011, 191 mayors and local authority representatives, including eThekweni Municipality, serving around 300 million people worldwide, have endorsed the Mexico City Pact.

The main purpose of the Mexico City Pact is to encourage local governments around the world to set targets around, and then to put in place projects that will help achieve these. This is particularly significant as progress in reaching a globally binding agreement on emissions reductions is still slow.

One of the critiques of the Mexico City Pact in its present form is that it doesn't adequately address 'adaptation'. In other words, it does not look at what cities will put in place to adapt to climate change. This is one of the areas that local governments will be seeking to address in the build-up to COP17/CMP7.

The eThekweni Municipality has already taken steps toward climate change mitigation:

- The commissioning of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, to be completed this calendar year in order to better understand the key sources of emissions in the city

SIMPLE WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

- The development of an internal policy to promote better energy management within eThekweni Municipality
- The implementation, of measures to improve the energy efficiency of municipal buildings
- A Shisa Solar Water Heating Programme (www.shisasolar.org.za) that aims to provide a financially viable option for Durban residents to install solar water heaters in their homes
- The installation of energy-efficient traffic lights and street lights.
- The development of a Wind Map, that will be used to identify potential sites for large-scale wind generation in Durban.
- The establishment of the KwaZulu-Natal Sustainable Energy Forum (www.kznenergy.org.za). The purpose of the KZN Sustainable Energy Forum (KSEF) is to facilitate the development of the sustainable energy sector in KZN through information dissemination and networking opportunities. It is an initiative of the Durban Industry Climate Change Partnership Project and is jointly funded by the eThekweni Energy Office and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).



GO SOLAR AND SAVE!

With the Shisa Solar water-heating programme, launched early last year, you can save up to 30% on electricity. It's also a great way to help combat global warming. You pay less for your solar water heater thanks to this unique volume-purchasing programme - if you can get 10 people in your neighbourhood to participate, the prices of the individual units will be reduced.

Now it's also easy to go solar - the suppliers take care of the paperwork, the solar water heating units that offer the best value have been pre selected and a bulk discount price for them has already been negotiated. The service providers have also been pre-selected and approved. Shisa Solar is the first of many planned renewable energy initiatives and is the first of its kind in the country.

While a mitigation approach to climate change is important, even more critical is the ability of cities to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change. EThekweni Municipality is regarded as a global leader in the field of climate adaptation, and we look forward to sharing more information about this in an upcoming edition of this newsletter.

<http://www.shisasolar.org.za>

If you can't afford a new hybrid car or any of the other fancy energy-saving products on the market, don't worry. There is a lot you can do to show your respect for the planet and ensure you tread softly on it. Here are just some simple ways that will ultimately make a big difference:

Buy organic, go local

Whenever you can, even though you often have to pay a premium, buy organic - it means the food was grown in an eco-friendly way. And if it's locally grown, it didn't have to be transported that far. Be aware - those cappuccinos and lattes you love may come from beans that have travelled a great many kilometres to get to you. Find a coffee house that specialises in African beans, and roasts locally. For the same reason, eat at restaurants that serve locally produced or seasonal foods.

Pay attention to packaging

Consider products that have minimal packaging or environmentally friendly packaging. Shop with reusable bags - cloth tote bags or recycled bags are best.

Bye-bye bottled water

Bottled water has a massive carbon footprint — it's bottled at one location in small plastic bottles and shipped all over the country or the world. Buy a reusable water bottle or canteen for your water. Durban has some of the best quality drinking water in the world.

Energy-proof your home

No major upgrades are needed, just simple stuff. Make sure all of your windows close properly so that your home is properly insulated. This will save you money on your energy bills too. Switch to compact florescent light bulbs. They use roughly 75% less energy than normal light bulbs and last much longer.

Unplug and save!

- If you're not using an electrical appliance, unplug it. Most electronic appliances siphon energy even when they are on standby or "switched off". That includes cell phone chargers, laptops, televisions, sound systems, printers and a long list of others.



Use cold water

- Oh, alright, it's still a bit chilly - you can use hot water in the shower, but not too much. But do a cold wash in your washing-machine. It takes a lot of energy to heat up water — multiply that by the number of wash loads, and that's a big footprint.



DURBAN HOSTS FAMOUS 13-YEAR-OLD CLIMATE JUSTICE AMBASSADOR

Felix Finkbeiner was 9 years old when he came up with the idea of planting a million trees in each country on earth in order to capture dangerous greenhouse gases. His dream has become a global movement, with children all over the world following the Plant-for-the-Planet initiative, planting trees and "fighting for climate justice". Felix and his family recently visited Durban to set up Plant-for-the-Planet Academies. They met with enthusiastic children at the Phoenix Education Centre and the Natural Science Museum. On Sunday 24 July, a Plant-for-the-Planet Academy was hosted by Dallas Oberhozer at the Indigo Skate Park in the Valley of 1 000 Hills, where roughly 100 children from the Isithumba village planted fruit trees to provide fruit for skaters in the skate park.

www.plant-for-the-planet.org

<http://www.indigoskatecamp.co.za>

There's a lot going on in Durban leading up to and including COP17/CMP7. Whilst much of this is still in the planning stages, we'll share it with you anyway. If there's something you are doing that is a green event or that in some way promotes positive awareness of the environment, please let us know. Contact cop17cmp7@durban.gov.za

August

29 Aug: Environmental Sustainability Project: KwaZulu-Nata Provincial Presentations. 16h00-19h00. Botanic Gardens Hall. desiree.kosciulek@wits.ac.za or call (011) 339 2021 ext 122

September

1-7 Sept: National Arbor Week - Reminds us of the importance of trees and inspires everyone to plant indigenous trees.

2-4 Sept: Sustainable Living Exhibition, hosted by Imagine Durban at the Exhibition Centre

16 Sept: International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer.

24 Sept: Heritage Day - Celebrates the importance of South Africa's natural and cultural heritage Moving Planet - A worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis. <http://www.moving-planet.org>

27 Sept: World Tourism Day - Fosters awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.

October

9 Oct: B.Epic In the Gardens concert at the Botanic Gardens

3rd W: National Marine Week celebrates the importance of the oceans to life on earth

November

Youth video competition initiated by the Green Hub

13 Nov: Goldfish concert at the Botanic Gardens

27 Nov: Art exhibition at the Orchid House, Botanic Gardens

28 Nov: COP17/CMP7 conference begins at the ICC, Durban Green market at the Green Hub

There will be a variety of exciting events along the beachfront and at the Umgeni River estuary during the COP17/CMP7 conference. These will range from beach walks and mountain bike rides to canoe trails, a river raft race, Green Home Expo, outdoor world cinema, beach games, craft markets and a whole lot more.

December

9 Dec: Last day of COP17/CMP7

17 Dec: H2O party on New Beach Suncoast Multi Series Sports

<http://www.cop17durban.com>

Business links to COP17/CMP7

National Business Initiative (NBI) COP17 Page

<http://www.nbi.org.za/Cop17>

Durban Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Committee

<http://www.durbanchamber.co.za>