

Ending South Africa's reliance on energy from coal? An introduction to the policy framework for South Africa's Just Energy Transition



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The links between climate change and coal-fired power in South Africa

- South Africa's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2000 to 2010 indicates that:
 - 'Electricity generation is the largest key GHG emission source in South Africa, primarily because it mainly uses sub-bituminous coal which is abundantly available in the country'.



What is a *just* energy transition?

There are two primary ways in which a just transition is conceptualized:

- Narrowly, pitting jobs in fossil fuel sectors against the environment
- Expansively, uniting:
 - Energy justice;
 - Environmental justice; and
 - Climate justice, each with elements of:
 - Equitable distribution;
 - Procedural justice and recognition; and
 - Restoration.



South African policy measures advancing a just transition

- The updated NDC (2021) setting out South Africa's commitment to achieving the Paris Agreement's temperature goal:
 - A just transition, broadly conceptualized, is at the “core” of the NDC, but worryingly (from an environmental and climate justice perspective) shale gas extraction and energy is proposed as an alternative to coal?!
 - Shifting to renewable energy is a central policy objective to achieve South Africa's carbon budget
- A ‘Just Transition Plan’ is envisaged by the NDC, and seems to be under development by the Presidential Climate Committee, which is developing a ‘Just Transition Framework’:
 - The Presidential Climate Committee's vision for the Just Transition Framework, based on reports prepared and published so far advances a broad conceptualization of a just energy transition, for instance recognizing, for instance that black women are most at risk of being ‘left behind’ in the transition to clean energy



Energy *must* transition, not just because of loadshedding: in a time of climate change, fossil fuel driven energy is a justice issue, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities...



'STEADY AS SHE GOES'



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