



discussion forum

Annual Energy Crisis Discussion Forum

24-25 April 2024

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) is hosting an online discussion forum on Annual Energy Crisis Discussion Forum on 24-25 April 2024.

NSTF Annual Energy Crisis Discussion Forum



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South Africa (SA) continues to battle a severe energy crisis marked by frequent and extended blackouts that can last for hours, days or weeks. The government is facing enormous pressure to address this crisis and mitigate its impacts on the country's economy, social well-being and overall development of the state. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has published the updated and revised Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in 2023. The plan focuses on providing secure energy/electricity supply to all SA citizens, as well as balancing the supply and demand of energy resources.

Following on the **previous NSTF Discussion Forum: Transitions in SA's energy provision (22-23 August 2023)**, the NSTF is hosting this discussion forum to provide an update on developments both nationally and locally, keep the conversation going with critical feedback and suggestions of solutions, and focus attention on the ongoing urgent problems with SA's energy systems. See the on [concept document](#) the website for the background.

At this online event, the latest developments at national level will be discussed, specifically:

- The new Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)
- The Just Transition to renewable sources of energy
- Skills and upskilling

At a more localised scale, information and knowledge will be shared including:

- The opportunity presented by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition's (the dtic) eco-industrial parks to contribute to the renewables industry and integrate renewable sources into their operations

Purpose and objectives:

This discussion forum provides a platform for scientists, professionals, government officials and the public to share their insights about the current state of energy provision in SA and the more localised solutions that have been devised.

1. What do scientists and professionals have to say about the current state of energy provision?
2. What plans are there to provide the skills needs for the roll out of renewable energy?
3. What local solutions hold promise for overcoming the energy crisis, and which of these should be scaled up?
4. What are the impacts and implications of consumers devising their own power solutions?
5. Are we making progress?

What can be done?

It is a complex task to integrate renewables into the electricity supply. There needs to be a strategy that considers technological innovation and research, policy support, upskilling and investment in infrastructure. Developments in technology allow complexity to be managed more efficiently. Consideration should be given to implementing a country-wide high-tech system that can lead to reliable electricity provision to industry, business and communities.

Another sustainable solution is reducing consumption. For some areas in SA a strategy has been adopted of minimising the energy load in their areas to avoid power cuts. Energy efficiency remains a very important goal.

During the two-day discussions, we will unpack each of the issues mentioned and come up with possible solutions to create sustainable and stable energy provision.

Themes

1. Electricity policy update
2. Locally generated electricity
3. Management systems
4. Household energy solutions
5. Skills and upskilling

Outputs:

As is usual for [NSTF Discussion Forums](#), a media release will be issued which summarises the most important issues and conclusions. The following outputs will also be made available on the [event page](#) and through social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)):

- Video recordings of speakers' presentations (subject to the speakers' agreement)
- Presentation slides (if available and subject to the speakers' agreement)
- Speakers' biographies
- Useful links
- NSTF will engage the media on possible interviews and/or articles, and post on social media before, during and after the event.

Delegate registration information

Date: 24-25 April 2024

Time: 09:00-13:00 on day 1 and 09:00-13:30 on day 2

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points: CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with [SACNASP](#) (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions). For other affiliations, please contact the NSTF office at enquiries@nstf.org.za.

Register (online event): The event is held online via the NSTF Zoom platform. You will receive an email to confirm your subscription, whereafter you will be diverted to a web page with the Zoom link. Click here to [register](#).

Attendance and participation in this NSTF Discussion Forum is FREE to all those interested.

Please note that if you do not register, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the NSTF website.

About the NSTF: The NSTF is a non-profit [stakeholder forum](#) representing the science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation community in South Africa. The [membership](#) consists of more than 130 organisations, and ranges from research institutions, universities and state entities to business, [professional societies \(proSET\)](#) and civil society. The NSTF promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders. [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to exchange knowledge and ideas, and give feedback to government and relevant authorities.

About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995:

- is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa
- gathers stakeholders around burning issues of national and global interest, across the public and private sectors, including matters of public policy
- includes a network of professional societies in SET and STEM education (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics) - the NSTF proSET membership sector.
- recognises, awards and profiles the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation through the prestigious NSTF Awards
- runs and supports collaborative projects and youth outreach, including recognition of top performance in mathematics and science, role modelling, bursary and STEM career information
- runs and supports the STEMulator.org which attracts youth and educators to Explore>Discover>Learn the world of STEM including careers. (Established by NSTF proSET)

For more information
www.nstf.org.za
 E-mail: enquiries@nstf.org.za

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