

SOLAR POWER

4-6 March 2025

Cape Town International
Convention Centre South Africa

CONFERENCE
PROGRAMME

Keynote Address 1

Time	09h20 - 10h00
Welcome	Michael Dehn
Speaker	Samantha Graham - Deputy Minister

Plenary Session 1

Time:	10h00 - 11h00
Theme:	Are Energy Policies Driving Us Forward? A Private and Public Sector Perspective
Theme Description:	<p>This session explores the evolving energy policies and regulatory frameworks shaping South Africa's renewable energy future, with a focus on solar. Key to the discussion is the upcoming Market Code, which will be developed under the Electricity Regulation Act (ERA) Amendment Bill, assigning the National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTCSA) as the central buyer and market operator. Attendees will gain insights into how these changes, including the qualifying criteria for power market participants, impact the private and public sectors, and whether current policies, including modeling forecasts, are propelling clean energy adoption and growth.</p>

11h00 - 11h30 Tea/Refreshment Break

Plenary Session 2

Time:	11h30 - 12h30
Theme:	Unlocking Funds for Africa's Just Energy Transition: Access, Success Stories, and Skills Development
Theme Description:	<p>This session will focus on the Just Energy Transition (JET) in Africa, exploring available funding mechanisms, how to access these funds, and the skills development programs supporting the shift to renewable energy. Attendees will learn about real-world examples of projects that have successfully utilized JET funds, showcasing their impact on energy access and economic development. The discussion will also highlight the critical role of initiatives like Green Cape's PowerUp—an intervention of the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM)—in addressing skills gaps through a digital matchmaking platform connecting industry and training institutions. Insights into strategies for overcoming financial and logistical barriers to scaling up renewable investments across the continent will also be provided.</p>

12h30- 13h30 Lunch & Exhibition

Plenary Session 3: Investment and Collaboration

Time: 13h30 - 14h30

Theme: **Financing Solar Projects in Africa: Overcoming Challenges with Innovative Solutions**

Theme Description: This session will explore the evolving financing landscape for large-scale solar projects across Africa, addressing the unique challenges and opportunities in the region. Attendees will gain insights into innovative financing models such as blended finance, which combines public and private sector funding to mitigate risks and unlock new investment opportunities. The discussion will also highlight the critical role of international investors and development banks in accelerating solar adoption, showcasing successful case studies and strategies to overcome financial barriers in driving Africa's renewable energy growth.

Plenary Session 4: Solar and Storage: The Future Hub

Time: 14h30 - 15h30

Theme: **Battery Storage Technologies: Unlocking the Future of Solar Energy**

Theme Description: As solar power grows, the need for effective energy storage becomes crucial. This topic explores the cutting-edge advancements in battery storage technologies and their potential to revolutionise energy storage. By addressing key challenges such as reliability and capacity, these innovations hold the key to maximising solar energy's efficiency. Battery storage is rapidly emerging as the next major leap in making solar energy a dominant and reliable power source.

15h30- 16h00 TEA/REFRESHMENT BREAK



Plenary Session 5: Sustainable Development	
Time:	16h00 - 17h00
Theme:	The Future of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Solar Power Integration: Driving the Future of Transportation
Theme Description:	<p>As the world transitions to a greener future, integrating solar power with electric vehicles (EVs) is pivotal for reducing carbon emissions and lowering energy costs. This session will explore the innovations behind solar-powered EV charging stations—grid-tied and off-grid solutions—and examine how the New Energy Vehicle (NEV) policy guidelines and potential incentives will accelerate this shift. The discussion will also highlight the Atlantis Special Economic Zone’s (ASEZ) Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Investment Strategy, which aims to position the ASEZ as a hub for green technology manufacturing, focusing on building local capacity in the emerging EV industry in the Cape. Additionally, the session will focus on the future of fleet fast-charging systems using modular solar PV, the role of battery storage as grid support, and how these advancements can ensure grid stability without overloading the system, driving us toward a more resilient and sustainable transportation infrastructure.</p>



Keynote Address 2

Time:	09h00 - 09h30
SAESA Welcome:	TBC
Keynote Address	
Theme:	City of Cape Town Renewable Vision

Plenary Session 6

Time:	09h30 - 10h30
Theme:	The Impact of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP) on South Africa's Solar Energy Landscape
Theme Description:	This session delves into the transformative role of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP) in driving South Africa's energy transition. It offers an in-depth analysis of the program's progress, highlighting its influence on the development of solar energy projects and the investment opportunities it has unlocked. The session will review the latest bid window(7) and the pro's and cons of the program.

Keynote Address 3

Time:	10h30 - 11h00
Keynote Address	Green Hydrogen and Solar: Applications for South Africa's Clean Energy Future
Topic Description	This session explores the synergy between solar energy and green hydrogen production, highlighting how solar power can drive the development of green hydrogen as a clean, sustainable energy source. Attendees will gain insights into the potential of integrating green hydrogen into South Africa's energy mix and the potential application long-haul trucking, freight and shipping and the transformative impact it could have on the country's path towards carbon neutrality.

11h00 - 11h30 Tea Break

Plenary Session 7

Time:

11h30 - 12h30

Theme:

The Environmental Impact of Solar Energy and Its Role in the Transition to a Circular Economy

Theme Description:

This session will examine the environmental benefits and challenges of solar energy within the context of a circular economy. It will explore how solar power contributes to reducing carbon emissions and dependency on fossil fuels, while also addressing concerns around the lifecycle of solar technology, such as manufacturing, waste management, and recycling. Attendees will gain insights into how the solar industry can adopt circular economy principles, minimising its environmental footprint and creating a more sustainable, resource-efficient energy future.

12h30- 13h30 Lunch & Exhibition

Plenary Session 8

Time:

13h30 - 14h30

Theme:

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Manufacturing in South Africa and Africa: Risks and Opportunities:

Theme Description:

Assessing the current state of solar PV manufacturing on the continent, exploring both challenges, market opportunities, and export requirements for growth. How will Governments imposing a 10% import tariff on solar panels affect localisation efforts and drive local demand with increased manufacturing.



Plenary Session 9: Solar and Storage: The Future Hub

Time:	14h30 - 15h30
Theme:	Scaling Solar + Storage Solutions for Commercial & Industrial Sectors
Theme Description:	<p>This session provides an in-depth analysis of the latest market trends and innovative strategies for expanding solar-plus-storage systems in the commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors. It will explore how businesses can leverage these integrated solutions to enhance energy efficiency, reduce costs, and achieve greater energy independence, while also addressing the challenges and opportunities in scaling these systems for large-scale operations. Aspects like fire safety regulations, insurance aspects related to batteries, as well as the professionalisation of the solar PV sector, and the legislative landscape governing SSEG will be addressed.</p>
15h30- 16h00 TEA/REFRESHMENT BREAK	
Plenary 10: Sustainable Development	
Time:	16h00 - 17h00
Theme:	Decentralised Solar Solutions for Electrification
Theme Description:	<p>This session explores the transformative potential of small-scale solar and storage systems in delivering reliable, off-grid energy to rural and low income communities and urban areas not yet electrified. It will examine how decentralized solar solutions and mico-grid solutions can bridge the energy access gap, empower local economies, and foster sustainable development in remote areas that are traditionally underserved by conventional power infrastructure. The panel will address how we use technology to drive and foster poverty elevation</p>

