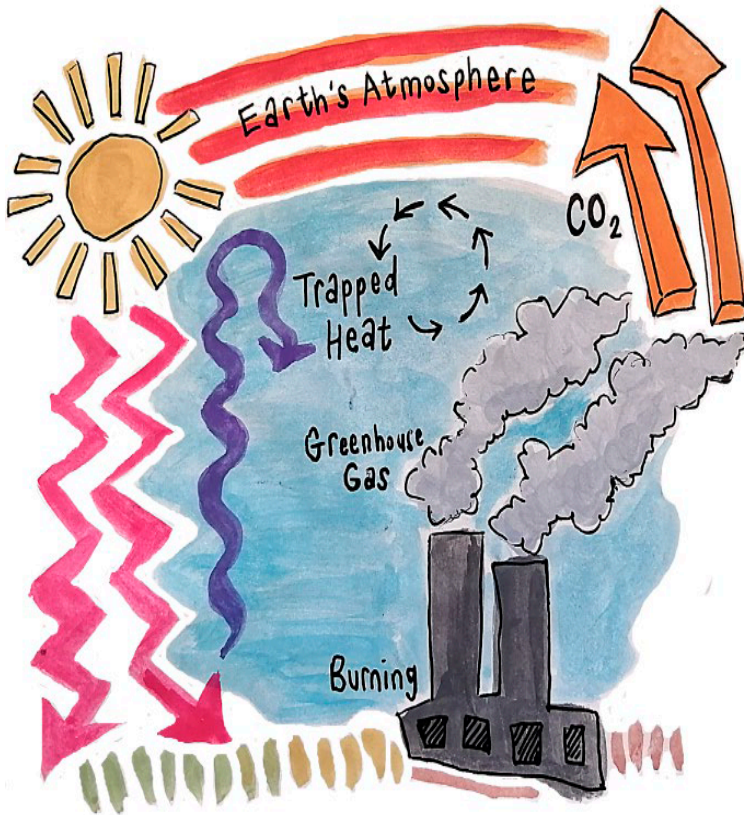


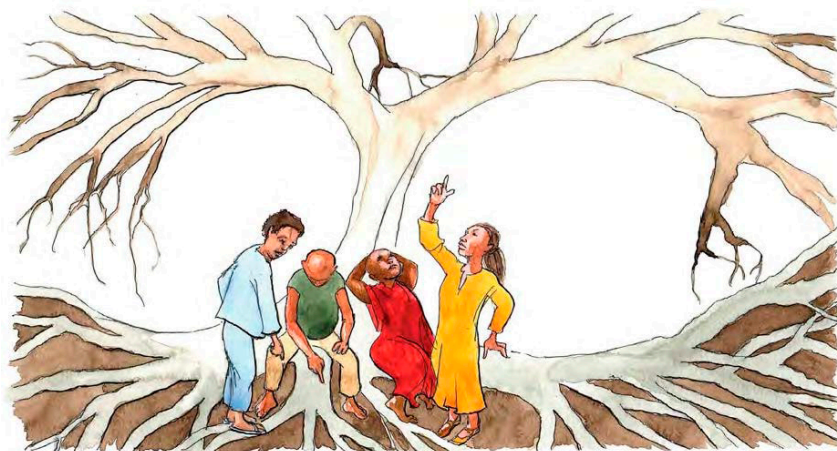
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE JUST ENERGY TRANSITION TOOLKIT



The Climate Change and the Just Energy Transition Toolkit assists with deepening the understanding of Communities in South Africa about the nature and impact of Climate Change and the implications of the Just Energy Transition (JET).

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Toolkit Framework: Climate Change Action for Communities in South Africa and the Just Energy Transition

Introduction:

The Climate Change Action Toolkit for Communities in South Africa is a resource designed to assist communities to understand and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change. Climate change is not a problem that can be solved in isolation; it requires collective effort and shared responsibility. Our toolkit recognises that addressing climate change is a complex puzzle, and each piece of this puzzle is equally vital. The toolkit therefore emphasises the crucial role of collaboration between communities, the Eskom Just Energy Transition Project (JET), government authorities, and other relevant actors in achieving meaningful and sustainable change.

Climate change is a global issue with local impact. It affects everyone, from the farmer to the government policymaker. By working together we can bring about change and create a more sustainable future for all. We can create solutions that are more robust, adaptable, and inclusive.

The toolkit encourages open dialogues, the sharing of knowledge, and the pooling of resources to address climate change challenges collectively.

Communities do not work in isolation but are integral parts of a larger system. In the fight against climate change, they are not alone. The toolkit aims to foster a sense of community, common purpose, and shared responsibility.

This toolkit serves as a guide to help us navigate this collective path towards a brighter and more sustainable future.

Section 1: What is Climate Change?

Discovering Climate Change

Learn how things we do can make the Earth's weather change: Imagine the Earth a large pot with air, water, land, and all living things in it. When we burn things like coal, oil, and gas for energy, we release special gases into the air. These gases act a closed pot that is being heated by a fire (sun) around the Earth, trapping heat from the Sun. Like with the pot this makes the Earth warmer, and that's what we call "climate change." It's like being trapped in a pot that is slowly heating up.



Understand that our actions affect the planet: The things we do every day, like driving cars or using electricity, release those special gases into the air. This is caused by all countries around the world. Even though some countries release more gases than others we all will suffer from its effects. These gases make the Earth's temperature rise, which can cause problems for people, animals, and plants. But the good news is, if we change the way we do things and use cleaner energy, we can slow down this warming and protect our planet.

How it Affects You

Hotter Temperatures: Imagine that the sun feels even hotter on a regular day than it used to. People may find it harder to work for long hours because of the intense heat. This could lead to problems like heat exhaustion.

Erratic Rainfall: Picture a farm where crops usually grow well because there's enough rain at the right times. But now, the rain doesn't come when it should, and sometimes it pours so much that it floods the fields, damaging the crops.

Crop Challenges: Think about a farmer who plants their seeds, but the ground is so dry that the seeds don't sprout, and the plants wither away. This means less food for the family.

Less Clean Water: Imagine a village where the river or well that everyone depends on for water is drying up because there's not enough rain. People might have to walk farther to find water, and what they find might not be as clean.

Health Risks: Consider a situation where there are more mosquitoes than before because of the changing climate. These mosquitoes could carry new diseases that make people and their animals sick.

Migration: Picture a family who has to leave their home because the land they used to farm is no longer good for crops, and the animals they raise can't find enough to eat. They may need to move to a different place where it's safer and easier to live.

These examples show how climate change can directly impact the daily lives of people in Africa, making it clear that it's a real and pressing issue they must address.

Section 2: Being Ready for Change



Get Informed About Climate Change:

Start by learning about climate change and how it affects your areas. Understand the specific challenges like increased flooding due to increased development.

Engage with Your Community:

Join or initiate discussions within your community about climate change. Work together to develop plans that suit the unique circumstances of living in your area.

Assess Risks in Your Neighbourhood:

Identify climate-related risks in your neighbourhood. Think about how increase growth in the community expansion may impact local weaknesses.

Plan for Your Community's Climate Resilience:

Work together with your neighbours to create a localised climate action plan that addresses the challenges and weaknesses of living in your area.

Use Water Wisely:

Implement water-saving methods suited for local settings. Consider collecting rainwater and using water efficiently in your expanding environment.

Agriculture:

Explore climate-smart farming methods for local spaces. Contribute to sustainable food production within local areas.

Save Energy and Consider Solar Power:



Contribute to energy efficiency in your community. Use energy-efficient appliances and lighting. Explore options with local government and the Independent Power Producers

(IPPs) for using solar power in your local setting. It's part of their obligations to local communities.

Stay Informed and Prepared:

Stay updated about climate-related risks specific to local community life. Prepare for emergencies like flooding and extreme heat with your family and neighbours.

Community Health Awareness:

Take care of your health and well-being during extreme weather conditions in peri-local areas. Visit local clinics for assistance and further information.

Advocate for Local Policies:

Get involved in local advocacy efforts for climate-resilient policies, emphasising the unique needs of local communities. Engage with local government to prioritise climate adaptation in their Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

Learn and Build Skills:

Participate in training programs that empower you with skills for adapting to climate change in local areas.



Collaborate with Neighbours:

Work closely with your local neighbours, NGOs, and experts to access resources and knowledge for local climate adaptation projects.

Spread Awareness:



Share climate change and JET updates and preparedness measures within your local community to keep everyone informed.

Adapting to climate change and the JET in local areas starts with community members taking proactive steps to protect their homes, families, and communities.

Your active involvement can make a significant difference in building resilience to climate challenges and taking full advantage of the JET benefits in your regions.

Section 3: What is the Just Energy Transition Project (JET)?

The Just Energy Transition in South Africa means changing how the country gets its energy (like electricity) in a fair and careful way. It's about shifting from dirty sources of energy that harm the environment (like coal) to cleaner and more sustainable sources (like solar and wind power). But it's also about making sure that this change doesn't leave people who depend on the old energy sources without jobs or money. So, it's like switching to cleaner energy while making sure everyone is treated fairly and nobody is left behind.



Environmental Benefits:

The JET is crucial because it helps solve the pollution and health problems caused by using coal for electricity. Coal power makes the air dirty and harms people's health. The project changes this by replacing old coal power plants with clean energy sources like wind and solar. This means cleaner air, better health, and less damage to the environment. It also helps fight climate change by reducing harmful emissions.

Job Losses

During the Just Energy Transition, job losses can occur, especially in industries that rely on fossil fuels like coal mining or oil extraction. Here's



what happens to job losses and how they are typically addressed:

Job Losses in Fossil Fuel Industries:

As the transition to cleaner energy sources like wind, solar, and natural gas progresses, there is often a reduced demand for workers in fossil fuel-related sectors. For example, coal mines may close, or oil refineries might scale down.

Shift to New Jobs: To counteract these job losses, efforts must be made by government and the private sector to create new employment opportunities in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and related industries. For instance, there can be jobs in manufacturing solar panels, wind turbines, or installing energy-efficient systems in homes and buildings.

Training and Reskilling: Training and reskilling programs must be implemented by government and the private sector to help workers transition from old energy jobs to new ones. These programs must provide education and support to help people acquire the skills needed for the emerging clean energy sector.

Local Economic Diversification: Communities heavily reliant on fossil fuels will be able to diversify their economies by investing in other industries like tourism, agriculture, or technology. This will help to reduce the impact of job losses in the energy sector.

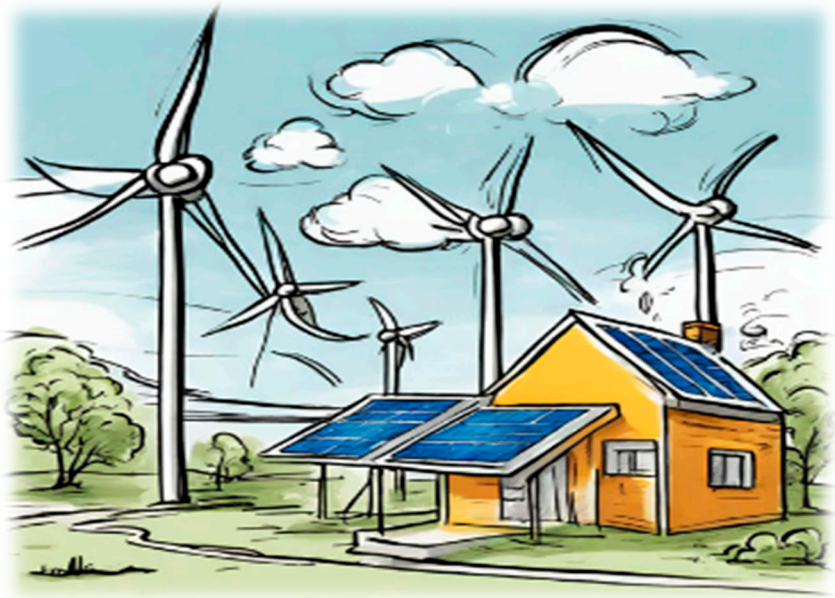
Safety Nets: Social safety nets, such as unemployment benefits and job placement services, must be established to provide financial support and assistance to workers who lose their jobs during the transition.

Community Engagement: Communities and workers must be involved in the decision-making process regarding the transition.

This ensures that their concerns and needs are addressed, and that the transition is as fair as possible.

Job losses are an expected part of the Just Energy Transition, but efforts must be made to minimise their impact through job creation, training, economic diversification, and support for affected workers and communities. The goal is to ensure a more sustainable and reasonable energy future while mitigating the negative consequences for those directly affected by the changes.

Section 4: What are renewable energy sources?



Renewable energy sources are forms of energy produced from natural resources that are almost unlimited, making them sustainable alternatives to traditional fossil fuels. They play an important role in reducing climate change and limiting our dependence on fossil fuels. In addition to solar and wind power, several other renewable energy sources are increasingly used to generate electricity and provide clean energy solutions:

Solar Energy: Solar energy is power captured from the sun's rays using special panels called solar panels. It's transformed into electricity or used for heating purposes.

Wind Energy: Wind energy is electricity generated by the turning of large wind turbines when the wind blows. The wind's kinetic energy is converted into electrical power.

Hydropower: Hydropower, or hydroelectric power, harnesses the energy of flowing water to generate electricity. It's one of the oldest and most widely used renewable energy sources. Dams and turbines are used to convert the kinetic energy of moving water into electrical power. An example is the Three Gorges Dam in China, one of the largest hydroelectric projects in the world.

Geothermal Energy: Geothermal energy taps into the Earth's internal heat. Hot water and steam from the Earth's crust are used to generate electricity. Geothermal power plants are often located in areas with high geological activity, such as Iceland and parts of the United States.

Biomass Energy: Biomass energy is derived from organic materials, such as wood, agricultural residues, and even municipal solid waste. These materials can be burned directly for heat or converted into biofuels like biodiesel and ethanol. Biomass is a versatile and renewable source of energy used for heating, electricity generation, and transportation.

Hydrogen: Hydrogen is considered a clean energy carrier rather than a primary source. It can be produced using renewable electricity through a process called electrolysis, where water is split into hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen can then be used as a fuel for various applications, including transportation and power generation.

These renewable energy sources offer a diverse range of options for transitioning to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future. Their development and adoption are essential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring a reliable energy supply for generations to come.

Section 5: Dialogue

Why is dialogue important for JET?

Dialogue is an essential part of democracy and, without it sustainable, true democratic change is impossible.

South Africa comes from a history of authoritarian rule, where decisions made by the few were imposed on the many. This has had disastrous consequences for individuals and communities. When we chose democracy in 1994, we consciously agreed that participation is both a right and a responsibility. Participation is not merely voting, but also extends to active citizenship i.e., organising and advocating for one's rights and those of communities to which one belongs.

For there to be a truly democratic society, citizens need to be able to have a say in the decisions which affect their lives, and Section 24 of the Constitution guarantees the right to an environment which is not harmful to health or well-being. The voice of the people is an essential ingredient in democracy. This voice can only be heard through dialogue and advocacy.

Active citizenship requires us to have conversations at a local level. Using dialogue as a basis, individuals and communities can advocate for change (at local, provincial or national levels). These conversations are important as they

- ❖ Give people the opportunity to listen and to share;
- ❖ Create the space for the creation of common understanding; and
- ❖ Become the basis for advocacy and action.

Section 6: How to access the benefits of JET?



In South Africa, people directly affected by job losses during the Just Energy Transition can access government benefits and support through various channels:

1. **Department of Employment and Labor (DEL):** The DEL in South Africa administers unemployment benefits and provides assistance to job seekers. Affected People can visit their local DEL office or the department's website to learn about available programs and services.
2. **National Skills Fund (NSF):** The NSF offers funding for skills development and training programs. Job seekers looking to acquire new skills for clean energy or other industries can explore opportunities through the NSF.
3. **Clean Energy Initiatives:** Keep an eye on government-led and private sector clean energy projects and initiatives, as they create job opportunities. These projects must collaborate with local communities and prioritise hiring locally.
4. **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges:** TVET colleges in South Africa offer various courses and programs that can equip people with skills relevant to the clean energy sector. Explore options for training and education at nearby TVET institutions.

5. **Community Benefit Agreements:** Advocate for and participate in negotiations for community benefit agreements with clean energy developers. These agreements can include provisions for local hiring and training opportunities.
6. **National Youth Service (NYS):** The NYS program provides young people with work experience and skills development opportunities. Young People affected by job losses can consider enrolling in NYS programs to gain valuable skills and work experience.
7. **Labor Unions and Worker Support Organisations:** Joining labour unions and worker support organisations can provide access to information, legal representation, and advocacy efforts to protect the rights and interests of affected workers.
8. **Community Development Organisations:** Local community development organisations often offer support and resources for people facing job losses. These organisations can provide assistance with job searches, financial counselling, and access to community services.
9. **Government Websites:** Regularly check government websites, such as the official South African government portal, for updates on available programs and services related to employment and the Just Energy Transition.

It's important for people to stay informed about specific programs and opportunities available in their region or municipality. Additionally, engaging with local communities, labour organisations, and advocacy groups can help people navigate the transition and access the benefits offered by the government.

Section 7: The Role of the Government in the JET Implementation

The South African government is committed to achieving a Just Energy Transition (JET) that not only transitions the country to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources but also ensures social equity and economic justice for all its citizens. The JET in South Africa is a multi-layered approach aimed at addressing environmental concerns, improving public health, and easing the socio-economic impacts of transitioning away from fossil fuels, mainly coal. Here's how the government plans to implement the JET:

1. **Energy Mix Diversification:** The cornerstone of the JET is the branching out of South Africa's energy mix. This involves reducing the country's heavy reliance on coal for electricity generation and integrating more renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower. The government has initiated programs and policies to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy projects and reduce coal's share in the energy mix.
2. **Phasing Out Coal:** To achieve a cleaner energy landscape, South Africa plans to gradually phase out coal-fired power plants which will take some time. This transition is managed in a manner that takes into account the impact on coal-dependent regions and workers. Specific strategies are being developed to address job losses in coal mining and related industries.
3. **Job Creation in the Clean Energy Sector:** To offset the loss of jobs in the fossil fuel sector, the government is actively promoting the growth of clean energy industries. This

includes manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure. Job creation initiatives are a core component of the JET to ensure that affected communities have access to new employment opportunities.

4. **Skills Development:** Recognising the need for a skilled workforce in the clean energy sector, the South African government is investing in training and skills development programs. This ensures that workers affected by the transition can acquire the necessary skills to participate in the emerging clean energy job market.
5. **Community Engagement:** The JET emphasises community involvement and decision-making. Local communities are actively engaged in the planning and implementation of clean energy projects, including negotiating community benefit agreements that ensure local hiring and development benefits.
6. **Social Safety Nets:** South Africa is establishing social safety nets to provide support to workers who lose their jobs during the transition. This includes unemployment benefits, job placement services, and financial assistance to help affected individuals and families through challenging times.
7. **Environmental Benefits:** The government acknowledges the environmental benefits of the JET, such as improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This is particularly caused by the burning of coal. These benefits translate into better public health and a reduced burden on the healthcare system.

8. **Community Development:** Beyond the energy sector, the JET encourages communities to diversify their local economies and invest in sectors like tourism, agriculture, and technology. This broader economic development approach helps cushion the impact of job losses in energy-related industries.
9. **Collaboration with Stakeholders:** The South African government collaborates with various stakeholders, including the private sector, labour unions, civil society organisations, and international partners, to ensure a coordinated and inclusive approach to JET implementation.
10. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The government has established mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the progress of the JET, ensuring that its goals are met, and adjustments are made as needed.

South Africa's commitment to the Just Energy Transition reflects its dedication to addressing the pressing challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, and socio-economic disparities. By focusing on sustainability, inclusivity, and the well-being of its citizens, the government aims to navigate the transition to cleaner energy sources while leaving no one behind. The JET represents a comprehensive and forward-thinking strategy to build a more sustainable and equitable energy future for South Africa.

Section 8: Dialogue

What is dialogue? Adapted from Violence and Prevention Toolkit

Dialogue is the process of sharing of peoples' different perspectives on an issue or topic with the aim of gaining understanding and strengthening relationships. A dialogue is not a debate nor a mere conversation. It is a process that welcomes the viewpoint of others even if it is vastly different, delving deeper into the thinking and reasoning underpinning beliefs and assumptions with the aim to deepen understanding. Dialogue is useful in unpacking and understanding people's ways of being their perspective on issues and their behaviour. It rules out the assumptions we make of others and brings clarity and 'truth' to the story. Effective dialogue can foster new ways of seeing the world, build trust and form the basis for future action.



Things to remember...

South Africa has a long history of violence, oppression and inequality. Being sensitive to the ways in which the past continues to shape the present is a critical component of not only good process facilitation but also a key consideration when having any dialogue.

Talking can be uncomfortable and this discomfort should be acknowledged. Talking about issues can also be difficult and should therefore be deliberative. Encourage reflection, understanding of different voices and perspectives, and respect complexity. Participants will take time so commit to the process which will strengthen existing relationships. Such commitment

helps people to better understand the issues and find ways of moving forward, fostering mutual respect.

The Constitution gives every citizen the right to participate in and advocate for the kind of community that they want, this includes the right to having a healthy environment. Dialogue is an important manifestation of this right: it brings people together and helps them formulate common action for advocacy. In the context of a Just Energy Transition, community engagement is essential for a sustainable, peaceful future.

Why do we need dialogue?



Structured dialogues provide participants with a platform to share their personal experiences, to listen to the experiences of others, to build trust and to find ways to work together as individuals and as communities.

The objective is to help people move from judgement and prejudice to understanding and respect for all. Dialogues are intended to foster mutual respect while still appreciating one's own realities. It is important to shift thinking. Communities should co-create ways of working together toward finding ways to challenge thinking and actions that perpetuates division. We all bear the responsibility to effect change where we can and to lead this change process from where we are.

Where do we start?

The starting point of any conversation is to find out what the issues are:

What challenges are people facing?

What conflicts exist?

It is important to make sure that people feel heard and that they are recognised. Finding out what the challenges and conflicts are can be done through:

Consulting with community leaders and groups;

Holding smaller meetings with different groups and stakeholders;

Having a meeting at which people can share their concerns and a list of common concerns is created and agreed to.



How to dialogue:

Dialogues are most effective when held in an environment that is conducive to conversation, with clear parameters, a place where people feel comfortable to express themselves, a place free of judgement and where people feel safe enough to be brave.

The person facilitating the dialogue is responsible for creating such a space and for ensuring that everyone feels seen and heard. This is by no means an easy process for either the facilitator or the participants; both parties have introspection to do and that can be

very uncomfortable. It is also not a process that just anyone can embark on.

The facilitator should have a passion to see society transformed, understand the dynamics within a society, understand the impact of racism and be willing to commit to a long-term process.

Creating an environment for participation:

In order to create a space that welcomes input and participation, assure the people in the room that everyone is welcome, and all people will be respected. Never attack a person, only an idea.

Communities embarking on dialogues in South Africa must bear in mind the likelihood that participants are carrying with them some level of psychological distress, either as a result of intergenerational trauma or as a result of living within families and communities facing a vast spectrum of social, economic and political hardship.

Being conscious of context and sensitive to participants' responses and body language must be a priority for anyone holding space for dialogue.

The ground rules:

- ❖ respecting how and what others say,
- ❖ listening to understand rather than listening to respond,
- ❖ ensure confidentiality is agreed amongst all participants.
- ❖ ask participants how they would like to be treated in the space.
- ❖ encourage shared values that promote inclusion, interaction, tolerance and accountability.
- ❖ allow participants to ask questions.
- ❖ encourage participants to embrace diversity and respect difference.



Creating a safe space:

Creating a safe space is an important principle in facilitating dialogue in such a way that people are not harmed. Where the dialogue is hosted; how people get there; what people feel in that space can and must be well facilitated to ensure that each participant's well-being and safety is considered at all times. They must not feel as if they will be judged by others when they raise sensitive issues.

All opinions matter, however prejudiced statements will be challenged when raised, i.e., challenge the thinking in a way that allows the responder to open up and not become defensive. There will be no name calling, harassment or bullying in the space. Follow the 'do no harm principle' in dialogue settings: do no harm to yourself, others, the community or the environment.

The facilitator²:

- ❖ Promote an environment which encourages openness and suspends judgment.
- ❖ Create and sustain a spirit of inquiry in the group.
- ❖ Identify tension and lead the group through it.
- ❖ Facilitate dialogue without imposing their own beliefs or perspectives.
- ❖ Remain flexible and allow a natural dynamic to occur within the group.
- ❖ Ensure equality within the group and break down power structures.
- ❖ Ask probing questions to encourage deeper individual exploration and the identification of larger truths.
- ❖ Produce the main ideas that emerge during the dialogue.



Active listening:

Dialogue is not only about speaking to each other; it is about listening to each other. Facilitators model active listening and help others do the same. Good facilitators listen to understand rather than listen to respond. Active listening may require a facilitator to briefly summarize the main points of a participant's statement to make sure they understood them correctly. Learning is deepened when a facilitator then asks additional questions of the speaker and the group to explore these ideas. Facilitators do not typically

summarize after each speaker, but instead let the conversation develop between participants before helping them put their ideas together.

Common follow-up questions to ask:

- ❖ Why? Tell me more.
- ❖ What should that mean going forward?
- ❖ How did you come to that understanding?
- ❖ What are others' experiences with this?
- ❖ Do others see this the same way?

Closing a dialogue:

It is important that all people feel that they have been heard. A good way to end a discussion is to conclude the final session by asking:

- ❖ Have your expectations for the discussion been met?
- ❖ Name one thing you have learnt today / What was a highlight of the discussions?
- ❖ Summarise all the things that have been agreed to and what needs to be done.
- ❖ What is one thing that you can do when you leave here today?
- ❖ In a word, describe how you are feeling? [This may not always be positive, and that is okay.]
- ❖ Thank the participants for their time and for their participation.
- ❖ Make a date and time for the next meeting.

After a dialogue:

It is important to get feedback about the event.

- ❖ You can ask participants how they found it or consult with community leaders after the event.
- ❖ Ask for comments (what went well, what can be improved).
- ❖ Debrief with other organisers to see how they found it.
- ❖ Make sure that the lessons learned are captured and considered when planning the next meeting.

Section 9: Useful Information

1. Department of Employment and Labor (DEL) - South Africa:
 - ❖ Website: [Department of Employment and Labor - South Africa](#)
 - ❖ Contact Information: You can find contact details on the department's website.
2. National Skills Fund (NSF) - South Africa:
 - ❖ Website: [National Skills Fund - South Africa](#)
 - ❖ Contact Information: Contact details are typically available on the NSF website.
3. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges - South Africa:
 - ❖ Website: [List of TVET Colleges](#)
 - ❖ Contact Information: Contact information for individual TVET colleges can usually be found on their respective websites.
4. National Youth Service (NYS) - South Africa:
 - ❖ Website: [National Youth Service - South Africa](#)
 - ❖ Contact Information: Check the NYS website for contact details.
5. Government Websites:
 - ❖ To find official government websites for specific regions or municipalities in South Africa, you can use search engines or visit the main South African government portal: [South African Government](#)

Community Development Organisations: Community development organisations are usually local or regional. Search for organisations operating in your specific community or municipality.

South African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI):

Website: [SAFCEI](#)

SAFCEI works with faith communities to promote environmental sustainability and address climate change issues, including the transition to clean energy.

GroundWork:

Website: [GroundWork](#)

GroundWork is an environmental justice organisation that advocates for sustainable development and the reduction of environmental harm, including through the promotion of renewable energy.

Centre for Environmental Rights (CER):

Website: [Centre for Environmental Rights](#)

CER focuses on environmental rights in South Africa and works on issues related to energy and environmental justice.

350.org South Africa:

Website: [350.org South Africa](https://www.350.org/south-africa)

350.org is a global climate organisation that campaigns for clean energy and climate action. The South African chapter is involved in local initiatives.

Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP):

Website: [REIPPPP](https://www.reipp.org.za/)

The REIPPPP is a government-led program that facilitates private sector investment in renewable energy projects. It may have information on community engagement and benefits from renewable energy projects.

National Association of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (NACSO):

Website: [NACSO](https://www.nacso.org.na/)

While NACSO operates in Namibia, it may have relevant information on community-based approaches to natural resource management and energy transitions.

Local Community Organisations: Many local community organisations across South Africa work on environmental and development issues. These organisations may be engaged in community-led initiatives related to clean energy and the Just Energy Transition.

Section 10: Acknowledgements:

We also want to acknowledge the input made by the following people and organisations:

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- ❖ The ESKOM Foundation

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