



South African

# CitiesNetwork

QUARTER FOUR NEWSLETTER | 2021 - 2022



# THE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK

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**QUARTER FOUR NEWSLETTER | 2021 - 2022**





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# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Stakeholder,

Welcome to our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter.

Governing cities and towns is a very complex and challenging process as it has to respond to globalisation and its many crises: Climate Change, Inequality, Political Instability, Terrorism, Migration, Social Polarisation and Pandemics. Yet defensible global development and prosperity are reliant on the sustainability of the world's cities, and this depends on how well cities are governed.

Inclusive growth in cities is of utmost importance and cities have the ability to address historical economic constraints. But while cities are key drivers of productivity, economic gains are not always evenly distributed, and many South Africans are still excluded from participating and benefitting meaningfully. Job opportunities have not always been constant, and many cities have experienced "jobless growth", resulting in poor, disadvantaged citizens being excluded from benefitting from improved GDP. The majority of people remain susceptible to precarious income generation and skills development opportunities, which prevents them from accessing the formal economy and all of its benefits.

Furthermore, the shock of COVID-19 exposed the economy's fragility. To address this, economic actors need to come together to improve a city's economy and foster economic inclusion. This requires an understanding of the importance of an all-of-society approach. These same actors need to better cooperate to understand city economies through cooperative structures associated with economic development levers. The South African Cities Network (SACN) is delighted to partner with the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) to contribute to the transformation of the province's economy to be more inclusive, especially by unlocking the untapped potential of various sectors and regions across the province.

The Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) recognises that it cannot meet this ambitious goal alone. The realisation of the economic outcomes imagined demand a whole-of-government and all-of-society approach, especially close coordination, and collaboration with municipalities. SACN, as the network of major cities, including the three metros in the province is appropriately positioned to support the GDED in its earnest endeavour to grow the province's economy in a way that leaves no one behind.

# EDITOR'S NOTE



In this quarter we highlight some of the activities across our programme. We launched our flagship publication, The State of South African Cities Report 2021 in April 2022. The Inclusive Cities programme launched the State of Urban Safety Report 2021, under the Innovative Cities we highlight the City of Ekurhuleni launching their open data portal soon, the Productive Cities Programme launched the State of the Expanded Public Works Programme 2020-2021 Report and highlighting their participation in the 9th AFRI Cities Summit in Kenya in May.

The Sustainable and Resilient Cities highlights the Presidential Climate Commission Multi-Stakeholder Conference and the Peer-to-Peer Knowledge Exchange two-day event on A Sustainable Grid for all. The Well-Governed Cities highlights the continued work and progress on the State of City Finances publication, under our City Focus, we look at the City of Tshwane's Climate Action Plan Launch and lastly, we look at some of the Team News and Events that took place.

Best Wishes,

Sithole Mbanga, SACN CEO

We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter.  
**Thank you for being our loyal reader.**







# CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

## **SACN Q4 Online Newsletter: Remarks by Chairperson of Council, Cllr Xola Pakati**

Welcome to our fourth-quarter SACN online newsletter. This edition marks our last newsletter for this financial year. As we conclude 2021/22 and prepare to usher in 2022/23, I would like us to reflect on two things in this edition. Firstly, the local government changes we went through and secondly, the climate-induced changes our cities face as evidenced in the drought in Gqeberha and the floods in eThekweni.

We underwent a transition period in the local government calendar owing to the elections in November 2021. This past financial year saw our councils receive a fresh mandate post the polls. This was soon followed by the approval of the mid-year budgets, which appropriated the local government priorities in the last two quarters of the financial year. The approval of the mid-year budget was soon followed by deliberations on IDP plans which outline the development vision of all the municipalities. The IDP process was followed by the budget's approval to the IDP visions of municipalities, which in some cities was concluded in May of this financial year. The above recap of the post-election transition period shows how our local government cycle is engineered to stay working to fulfil its constitutional mandate of service delivery to the people of South Africa. It also demonstrates that as much as we may consider June 2022 as marking the conclusion of a financial year. It is, to the contrary, a month that has birthed the 2022-2027 five-year master planning of the post-election regime in local government.

Coinciding with the above changes in local government business are the environmental crises of drought and heavy flooding that have beset the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan and the eThekweni municipalities. These ecological disasters have laid bare to us the impact of climate change on the sustainability of our cities. The days of theorising climate change as a phenomenon have no place in the new five-year programme of local government. We need urgent action to tackle this issue primarily because, as cities, we are the most significant contributors to the environmental disturbances associated with climate change.

Another disaster that happened during this period is the mysterious death of 21 teenagers at a Tavern in Scenery Park, East London. This human-made disaster is not only a misfortune but an injustice that is a key reflection of the deepness of the erosion that has been caused by popular culture, substances, and poor moral grounding in our communities. This tragic

# CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE



and unimaginable disaster should force us to better work together with communities, the police, and other stakeholders to clamp down substance abuse. As cities, we should be vigilant to ensure that this does not ever get to happen.

In the previous SACN newsletter edition, a great deal of attention was dedicated to the various development incentives that exist at the national government for cities to expedite their energy transitions as part of climate change mitigation. It is encouraging to see that in the newly adopted IDPs of most of our cities, there have been substantial financial and non-financial commitments toward climate change in the next five years. It is also equally disappointing to see those cities that have not explicitly raised climate change mitigation efforts in their IDPs. At the same time, we understand that there are many pressing matters that our local government needs to respond to, such as housing, health, and employment.

As municipal leadership and practitioners, we need to drive the message that climate mitigation forms part of the high-order priorities of service delivery and that within it exists scope to also extract citizen value in the form of green employment opportunities, higher levels of citizen health and overall sustainability of cities. This intrinsic value in pursuing climate mitigation needs to be communicated extensively across all sectors of our society. Climate change cannot continue to exist as a perceived crisis by some and not others. The key to this is getting everyone on the same page on the gravity of this crisis while also equally communicating the plurality of benefits which can be realised from pursuing climate change mitigation.

Colleagues, it is with this heartfelt plea that I would like to bid you all the best in wrapping up the 2021/22 financial year. It is also within the same appeal that I urge you all to not relent in gearing our municipalities to respond with the required urgency to climate change mitigation programmes in the new five-year term of local government.





# SOCR 5 LAUNCH

## Publication Launch: The State of Cities Report (SoCR) 2021 is now available

Cities that are taking bold steps and learning lessons are also the cities that are 'failing forward'. Those cities that adopt new ways of thinking will see the dawn before many others do. The future of cities may not be set in stone nor easy to predict, but the choices made now will shape the lives of generations to come. South African cities have the potential to be the reference point for cities across the globe in identifying, experimenting with and applying solutions to the future challenges that cities may face.

The South African Cities Network is pleased to announce that its State of Cities Report (SoCR) 2021 is now available. The Report was officially launched in Johannesburg on 22 April 2022.

SACN has been producing SoCRs, its flagship publications, since 2004. SoCR 2021 continues the tradition. It serves as a crucial South African urban reference publication, furthering the narrative on South Africa's unfolding urban development journey and raising the profile of urban development challenges in the national development discourse. It continues to offer credible and unique knowledge developed by numerous data sources, researchers, institutions and references.







2021

## REPORT

- Cities are delivering but face challenges
- Development progress is limited and outcomes are mixed.
- Cooperative governance and all-of-society approaches are key.
- Related governance concerns still need to be addressed.

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK

# INCLUSIVE CITIES

## The State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report 2021

The South African Cities Network was pleased to launch its 4th edition of the State of Urban Safety in South Africa report on 9 June 2022 in Kempton Park, Ekurhuleni.

Urban Safety is vital in our South African Cities, given that Metropolitan Cities grow twice as fast, with the nine urban municipalities analysed home to about 40% of the national population while they produce up to 80% of the gross value added to the national economy. This is a significant tension: cities are central actors in the achievement of national, regional and global sustainable development goals and at the same time account for higher rates of crime and violence.

This has an impact not only on their capacity to drive inclusive growth and better livelihoods for all. At the macro scale, they are impacted in terms of productivity and expenditure of municipal capital and operational budgets on law enforcement. On an individual scale, crime and violence have devastating impacts on families —women and children in particular.

According to crime statistics for the period October to December 2021, approximately 982 women and 350 children were murdered, with 232 of the murders of women directly linked to domestic violence. During the same period, 11 315 rape cases were reported, which on average translates to 123 cases per day. A total of 2,599 people were murdered in public spaces. The second most likely place for murder to occur is reported to be the home of the victim or the perpetrator, followed by liquor outlets in third place.

The report highlights the work of the Urban Safety Reference Group and the need to work in partnership across government and with all of society to address not only the upward trajectory of some crime trends, chief among them GBV and femicide; but also the readiness of our systems and institutions to deal with unexpected shocks and stressors. The Report provides useful examples of cities actively working together, breaking departmental silos and shifting



### The State of Urban Safety in South Africa REPORT 2021



*"A South Africa free of gender-based violence directed at women, children and LGBTQIA+ persons... through transformative approaches that take account of inequality and the gender differences that drive GVBFF" - The National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, 2020*



# INCLUSIVE CITIES

## The State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report 2021

beyond policing to being cognisant of social challenges driving crime and unsafety and heightened exposure to them for the vulnerable and largely excluded. Cities are innovative, showing us how we can have a holistic view and concerted approach to phenomena. It demonstrates how local officials are working to build social cohesion and inclusion through acupuncturist interventions around safety.

These include :-

- Dedicated safety offices in the City of Johannesburg;
- The inclusion of Urban Safety in the City of Tshwane's Integrated Development Plan (IDP);
- The all-of-society, multi-layered intervention to support eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality's homeless community.
- Local Drug Action Committees and the proactive rebuilding and consolidation of the City of Ekurhuleni's relationship with communities;
- An innovative Precinct Management Plan in Msunduzi Municipality;
- The all-of-society approach to safety and security patrols in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality;
- Cooperative operational planning and delivery in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality;
- Innovative use of technology and cross-cutting partnerships in Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality; and
- The use of neighbourhood safety officers in the City of Cape Town.

The report leaves us with a call to action regarding the critical work required by the whole government and all of society.

View the full report here - [CLICK HERE](#)



# INNOVATIVE CITIES

The SCODA Programme

## City of Ekurhuleni

After a 2-year journey of their open data initiative, the City of Ekurhuleni is soon going to deploy their open data portal, which will have an initial focus on demographic data. The portal will be circulated internally within the city, and then publicly launched in the second half of the year. The City of Johannesburg has successfully implemented a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) automated COVID-19 reporting pipeline — this is an electronic data collection form designed on KOBO that keeps a record of the city's employees' COVID-19 status.

The learnings from the implementation of this MVP can be carried through into other use cases within the city where data is currently manually collected via paper forms. The next steps for this use case include the development of a dashboard for the reports. Also exciting, the City has started a process of drafting its data strategy, which is in its second draft, with the formal implementation of the strategy expected in the 2nd half of the year.





# INNOVATIVE CITIES

## The SCODA Programme

Internally, SACN's open data portal, the South African Open Data Almanac (SCODA) version 3 (the Codebook version), is soon being launched; this version was deployed in November 2021. This codebook tool is a culmination of 5 years of work by SACN to provide a shared and transparent understanding of city reporting indicators.

The data and SoCR teams are in the process of developing dashboards across 9 SoCR themes. Three dashboards about Service Delivery, Human Resources, and Citizen Engagement have already been developed and will be shared on the portal soon.

These urban data developments have been achieved through the ongoing support of the partnership between the Cities, SACN and the Open Cities Lab (OCL).



# PRODUCTIVE CITIES

The State of the EPWP in South African Cities

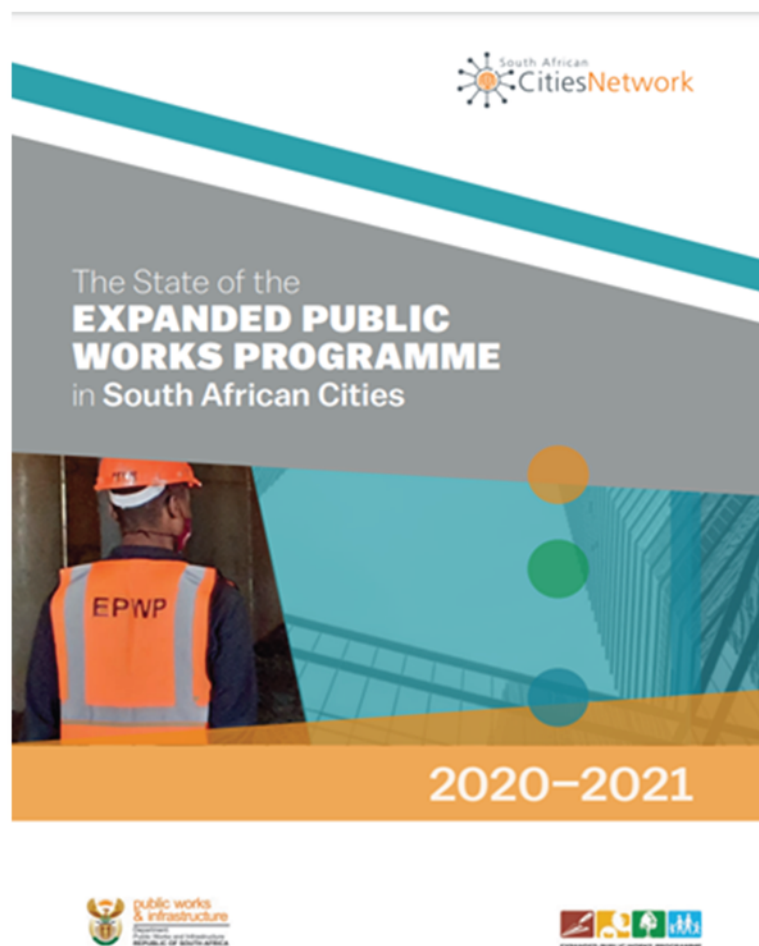
This edition of the newsletter arrives during South Africa's Youth Month celebration, where South African youth continue to be disadvantaged in the labour market with an unemployment rate higher than the national average. Amid the relentless electricity crisis and fuel hikes, the already strained business and consumer activity continue to be undermined.

This is in addition to the volatile South African currency which lost 8.5% of its value against the US dollar in the two weeks ending April 26, according to PWC's South Africa Economic Outlook of April 2022. This is in part due to interruptions in power supply and the disruptive effects of flooding in KwaZulu-Natal on economic activity.

Under these circumstances, the call for growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society is clear as reflected in this year's youth month theme.

The SACN, through its productive cities programme engaged in several activities alongside stakeholders in the quest to find solutions to problems bedevilling South African cities. Amongst these is the AFRI Cities Summit attendance and the launch of the State of the Expanded Public Works Programme in South African Cities Report. The launch of the EPWP Annual Report took place on Friday, 3 June 2022, and this publication constitutes the report for the 2020/21 period running from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

During the reporting year, the nine cities together implemented 1 121 projects, creating 57 205 temporary work opportunities (WOs) resulting in 20 910 person-years of work and R833 million paid to participants as wages. The average performance across the cities on youth participation was 48% against a target of 55%. Notwithstanding this, the average is higher than the overall programme performance of 42%, indicating cities' commitment to youth participation in the economy.





# PRODUCTIVE CITIES

## The State of the EPWP in South African Cities



Education and training remain important for youth to find employment and achieve a level of self-sufficiency. Hence the acquisition of skills that empower participants to become self-employed in future has become central to EPWP.

As part of supporting cities to better implement and improve the EPWP in this respect, work is being undertaken to review international best practice as it relates to exit strategies for public employment programmes. This is intended to develop a single flexible exit strategy that can be implemented in SACN's Network of Cities.

The results of this can be expected in the next reporting period. The 9th Edition of the AFRI Cities Summit took place in Kisumu, Kenya, and mobilized communities and local authorities in African countries, as well as financial institutions, civil society groups and development partners at continental and international levels.

The summit focused on the role of intermediary cities in implementing UN SDGs 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063. Here the SACN's productive cities programme utilized the opportunity to showcase South African case studies, including uMhlathuze (Kwa-Zulu Natal) and Polokwane (Limpopo). This session highlighted and emphasised the need for sustainable partnerships, pivoting intermediary cities to benefit from urbanisation, and the need to reduce vulnerability and reliance by intermediary cities on metros and undiversified, single-sector economies.

Chief during the discussion was the emphasis on getting small skills industry to benefit from urbanisation and resolving trust deficits between government and the private sector to secure meaningful partnerships for infrastructure investment and development.

# SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES



## Presidential Climate Commission Multi-Stakeholder Conference: Just Transition Framework

The Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) held its first Multi-stakeholder Conference on 5th and 6th May 2022 in Johannesburg aimed at contributing to the development process of the Just Transition Framework: a multi-pronged practical strategy to guide the implementation of necessary interventions across the short, medium, and long-term to achieve a just transition in South Africa. The framework is meant to be an inclusive and representative guiding document for the country's just transition.

Prior to the Multi-stakeholder Conference, the PCC held a series of engagements across the country, mainly with social partners and communities, to build consensus on the Just Transition Framework. The engagements were held in various provinces across the country and centred on ensuring the intersectionality of participatory workshops, where community and individual voices brought to the fore their knowledge and experiences of their local communities, sectors, livelihoods, opportunities, and needs.



Panel discussion on co-developing the Just Urban Transition Framework moderated by Commissioner Bongani Mwale with representatives from youth (Ayakha Melithafa) Labour (Ashley Benjamin, FEDUSA), Business (Fleetwood Grobler, SASOL), Civil Society (Thando Lukoko from SACAN), Government (Minister DFFE Barbara Creecy), and Philanthropies (Bulelwa Makalima-Ngewana).





# SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES

The South African Cities Network was invited to contribute to the first thematic group: Building Community Resilience to Physical Impacts of Climate Change. This thematic area explored the challenges in achieving a whole-of-society approach to building resilience, particularly at a community level.

Nosipho Hlatshwayo, Executive Manager: Programmes at the South African Cities Network, shared high-level reflections on the importance of cooperative governance required to build climate-resilient communities. Referencing the 2021 State of Cities Report, she highlighted the critical need for an all-of-society-approach which promotes effective collaboration and partnerships between government, communities and all urban actors, adding that communities should be seen and engaged as partners that can equally and meaningfully contribute to building climate resilience in their communities using local resources.

In closing, Nosipho shared an example of an initiative that is using an all-of-society approach to build community resilience: the Urban Water Resilience Initiative currently being carried out in partnership with SACN, World Resources Institute (WRI), City of Johannesburg, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Resilient Cities Network, Arup, and Zutari.



Nosipho Hlatshwayo from SACN providing a high-level overview of cooperative governance and an all-of-society approach to building climate-resilient communities to physical impacts of climate change.



# SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES



As part of this initiative, Water Resilience Plans for Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela Bay are being developed through multi-stakeholder dialogues, systems mapping, and research. Stakeholders include government, state-owned entities, industry, civil society, academia, and development agencies. This all-of-society approach enables various actors to gain clarity on shocks and stresses affecting water resilience, their role in building resilience, and how they can partner toward building resilience to water-related shocks and stresses. The journey and lessons will be shared with cities across the continent.



## **A Sustainable Grid for All: Exploring the powers and functions of municipalities in achieving a low-carbon grid.**

As the cumulative ripple effects of the past 14 years of Eskom's rolling blackouts, or load-shedding, are increasingly being felt across the country, the imperatives of the National Development Plan (NDP 2030) of a just transition to a low-carbon, inclusive and climate-resilient economy have never been more urgent to achieve. Not only does the continual use of fossil fuel-based energy, that the country so heavily relies on, greatly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, but it also creates a carbon lock-in for the economy — perpetuating and delaying the transition to low-carbon alternatives — thus prolonging economic recovery and keeping steady the ever-stubborn high unemployment rate, poverty and increasing inequality. The decarbonisation of the power grid, as reflected in the draft Just Transition



# SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES

Framework of the country, is a core step in building a sustainable, low-carbon, inclusive and climate-resilient economy, thus the idea of a sustainable grid-for-all has never been more relevant. Municipalities must justify increasing electricity prices, ensure a stable and sustainable energy supply, and manage the impact of the technical transitions on their distribution grids. Simultaneously, the climate crisis is increasingly evident in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Mitigating climate change, therefore, requires ambitious progress in decarbonising electricity grids, and many South African Cities are ready to embark on this journey.



To begin to unpack what this means in practice, Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the South African Cities Network (SACN), under the auspices of the Urban Energy Network, convened a peer-to-peer knowledge exchange event on 2nd and 3rd June 2022 to explore the powers and functions, as per the constitution and other applicable legislation, that municipalities have, to achieve a low-carbon grid and how they can communicate to residents on the importance of the grid.





# SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES



The Urban Energy Network has been running these peer-to-peer knowledge exchange events for over a decade with participants ranging from the managers responsible for electricity and energy policy and planning from cities, selected intermediary and local municipalities, as well as other relevant national and provincial government departments, Eskom, civil society organisations, researchers and private sector representatives. The aim, over the years, has been to strengthen municipal staff capacity around current sustainable energy issues and enable lesson sharing and mutual solution development and coordination amongst municipalities grappling with similar issues.

This June 2022 event centred around the theme "A Sustainable Grid for All", and started off with an overview of municipal climate commitments and energy security as well as the role of local government in driving grid decarbonisation.





# SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES

**Day 1** focused on renewable energy implementation for local government: unpacking renewable energy commitments, pathways, regulatory frameworks, and implementation mechanisms at the local level. Participants heard from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on the Plentify case study which explores what a dynamic, smart and efficient future grid would look like; George Municipality shared their journey of buckling down and getting the job done in developing a Municipal Energy Policy and provided a deep dive into their wheeling framework: contract amendments, tariff design, billing and metering, and policy overview.

Participants were provided with a Renewable Energy Policy template/worksheet provided by and based on the GreenCape Renewable Energy Policy template, which enabled them to draw the learnings from the inputs directly into a draft policy. This was followed by a lesson-sharing session on the City of Ekurhuleni's Independent Power Producer (IPP) procurement journey — working with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and the Electricity Regulation Act (ERA).

**Day 2** of the event centred on effective and impactful energy communication for consumers with inputs on developing an Electricity Communication Plan and the launch of a Grid for All communications toolbox. In addition, the City of Tshwane's TshwaneYaTima electricity payments campaign demonstrated the impact of political will to effect changes, the importance of building trust with consumers, raising awareness and educating them on the services they receive and in turn influencing behaviour change. A walk-through video of a case study on the municipal implementation of Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) was flighted and provided lessons on the policies, tariffs and by-laws used for integrating off-grid systems into the municipal system and incentivising customers to register their SSEG systems.

The SACN's City Communicators Toolkit was presented as an additional resource for municipalities to use for developing citizen-centred city brands and raising awareness and educating consumers on municipal policies and programmes. In closing off the two-day peer-to-peer knowledge exchange session, the key takeaways were that technology improvements, falling costs of renewable energy, innovation, network effects and digitalisation are all opening new opportunities and making an undeniable business case for a sustainable grid. Although there are differences of opinion on how South Africa should transition to a low carbon, inclusive and climate-resilient economy, at what pace and how the costs and bene-



# SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES



fits are apportioned, there is consensus that the transition must and should indeed take place. What is required on the technical side is an acknowledgement of the current (but surmountable) constraints to a fully renewable and sustainable "grid for all" and the political will to enact the sometimes-painful changes necessary to decarbonise the grid by adjusting the generation mix. As the locus of where all these challenges and opportunities intersect, and as evident globally, cities are and will continue to be at the forefront of this transition to a new global reality.





# WELL-GOVERNED CITIES

In the Well Governed Cities Programme, this quarter's research has continued on the State of City Finances publication. The data analysis has been corroborated by a large number of interviews with city Chief Financial Officers and their staff in revenue and budget, as well as interviews with key stakeholders from the National Treasury and the Financial and Fiscal Commission, to flesh out and provide context for the findings. Unlike previous State of City Finances publications which analysed trends over two years, this publication compares municipal financial performance over two local government administrations, namely 2011-2016 and 2016-2021.

The research is already revealing some interesting differences in municipal finances between the two terms, lending support to our hypothesis that the political shifts of the watershed 2016 local government election would play out in city finances. The changes in governance imperatives that came with political turnovers are indeed reflected in city budgets and spending priorities.

The analysis also indicates that the "pain points" in city finances, namely revenue, expenditure and capital investment, remain. This has been a recurring finding in State of City Finance publications in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2018 and 2020. Of considerable concern is the finding that the balancing act between cost recovery, providing services, the maintenance of existing infrastructure and investment in new infrastructure has become increasingly precarious in the deteriorating economic environment that affects the ability of cities to raise revenue from citizens and businesses within their boundaries.

Planning for the Township Economic Dialogue in Ekurhuleni continues. This urban dialogue will be held in partnership with the Department of Economic Development in Ekurhuleni and NGO Sustainable Livelihoods Africa which are working on several small business projects in Tembisa.





# WELL-GOVERNED CITIES

We are pleased that the Knowledge Management Unit (JIKE) of the City of Joburg has agreed to partner on an urban dialogue on the just transition which will feature speakers on the panel from City Power and the Environment and Infrastructure Services Department. The perspectives of a critical city entity on energy and city department on infrastructure and the environment will frame the planned engagement between the city, civil society and the private sector.

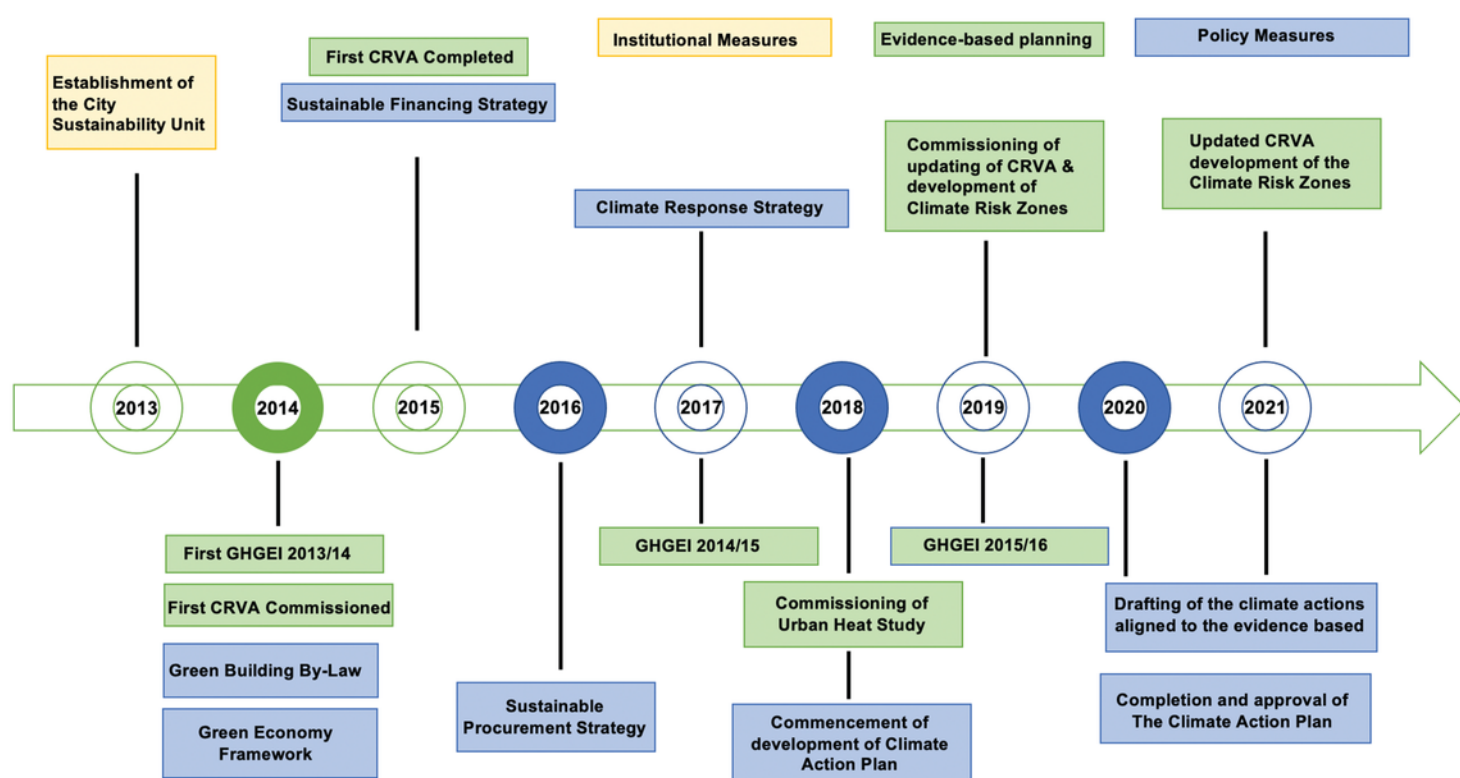
During this quarter the Programme Manager Well Governed Cities has participated in several interviews discussing the findings of SACN's flagship State of South African Cities Report 2021, which was launched on 22 April. Danga Mughogho was interviewed on China Global Television Network on 6 May and Newzroom Afrika on 26 May. He also took part in a panel discussion on 15 May with Enver Duminy, CEO of Cape Tourism and Eldred De Klerk of the African Centre for Security and Intelligence Praxis discussion on Radio 702 / Cape Talk. This panel discussed the City of Cape Town being placed third on the list of desirable cities in the world, and what that means for residents of different parts of the city. He was also invited to reflect on urbanisation in Africa in an interview with the SABC on the occasion of Africa Day.



# CITY FOCUS

## Launch of the Tshwane Climate Action Plan

The City of Tshwane launched its Climate Action Plan on the 7th of June 2022 in partnership with C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Tshwane Economic Development Agency, and the University of Pretoria, incorporating organisations and individuals that play a significant role in supporting local government to fulfil its logical role in addressing climate change.



Timeline of the Tshwane Climate Action Plan

The plan is a culmination of an institutional journey that started in 2013 with the establishment of the City Sustainability Unit (CSU) in the Office of the Executive Mayor. The journey included developing the institutional competence of the Unit to address climate change as there was no blueprint to guide the approach. In the last eight years, the CSU has been developing a combination of a solid evidence-base as well as policy measures, and this accumulation of work has culminated in the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

The plan was developed as a binding commitment on all departments in the City of Tshwane to play their part in ensuring that the city is net-zero carbon and climate resilient by 2050.



# CITY FOCUS

## Launch of the Tshwane Climate Action Plan

The CAP is comprised of 10 high-level outcomes, and each is comprised of targets, actions, tasks and sub-tasks. Each is the responsibility of one or more departments staggered over thirty years, with the imminent focus on critical activities for the next five years.



The CAP was developed through a combination of efforts — the evidence base was provided by Sustainable Energy Africa (greenhouse gas emissions inventory and emission reduction pathways, mitigation actions).

The CSIR (updated climate risk and vulnerability assessment inclusive of the urban heat island study and climate risk zones, adaptation actions) and the report was co-authored between the CSU and C40, with a C40 resource embedded in the Unit for the duration of the process.

Several stakeholder meetings were held to ensure solid engagement with both internal and external stakeholders.





# CITY FOCUS

## Launch of the Tshwane Climate Action Plan

The implementation of the plan has started with identifying CAP champions in each department whose role will be to ensure that the department understands its role in implementing the CAP actions, tasks and sub-tasks. The CSU is working on developing a Climate Budget for the City and seeking support for this budget. Numerous partners have pledged their support to Tshwane in implementing the CAP.



To learn more about CAP visit - [CLICK HERE](#)



# TEAM NEWS



## Team News: Introducing a new member to the SACN Team



### Majaha Dlamini

Majaha Dlamini has joined the team as our Urban Data Manager. He engages with the internal SACN team, its partners and participating cities to facilitate access to data and information for the maintenance and upkeep of SCODA.

The Office of the CEO has recently been strengthened with several resources comprising;

**Bronwyn Osman** — Company Secretary



**Rebecca Gatang'i** — Programme Manager Innovation



**Monique Damons** — Research Manager



**Majaha Dlamini** — Urban Data Manager





# TEAM NEWS

**Khosi Nxumalo** — Office Manager

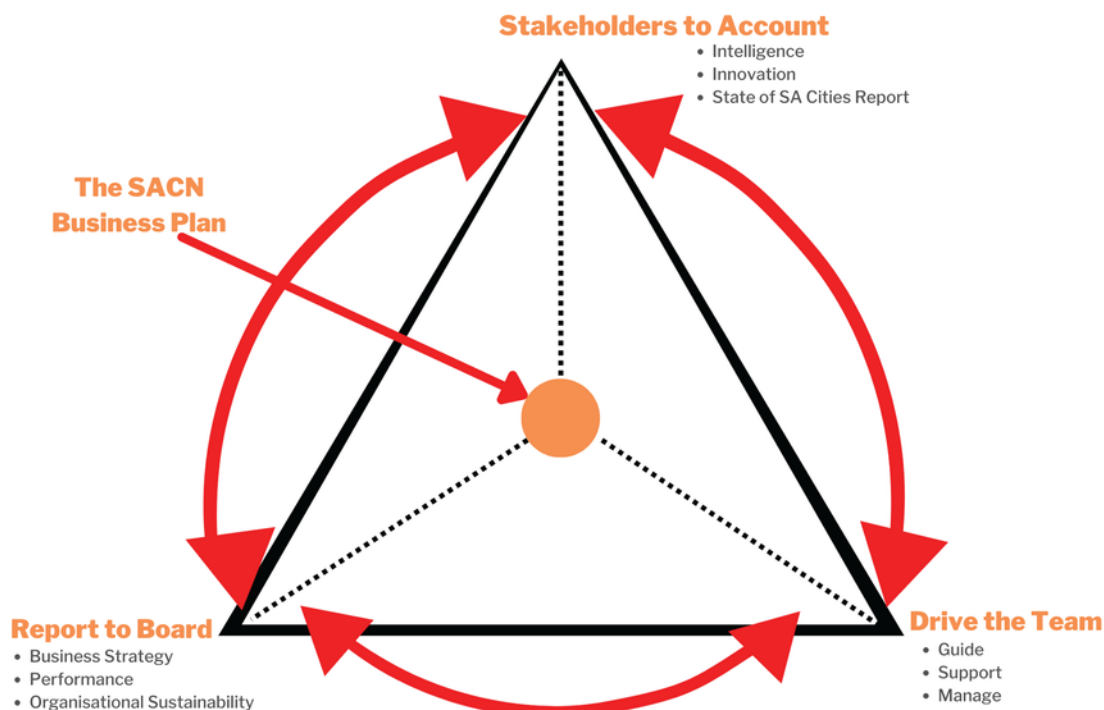


**Thamaga Mkwana** — Administrative Assistant



The office of the CEO together with the CEO is entrusted to serve the institution through various means underpinned and guided by the SACN Business Strategy. Our main mandate is to:

- Drive the Team through the leadership and management of the CEO.
- Report to Board by ensuring accountability and general wellbeing of the organisation.
- Account to stakeholders' alignment of SACN value proposition through programmatic work.







## Organisation News: The SACN Website Upgrade

We are proud to launch the SACN Research Catalogue hosted on the publications page on our website. Since SACN's establishment, almost 20 years ago, we have been generating research products relevant to South Africa's cities. Over this period, and as the organisation has grown, an increasing number of publications and projects are completed each year. Currently, SACN has produced over 200 research products, equating the organisation's research output to the likes of other prominent research organisations and academic institutes.

While the research itself is highly relevant and valuable to the city context, it is not always easily accessible to those who need it. Through feedback from some of the reference groups, it became clear that a more organised and systemized public repository of our research was necessary. We, therefore, embarked on the creation of an organised, searchable, user-friendly Research Catalogue to ensure that the city officials, academics, and the public can easily and efficiently find any SACN knowledge product relevant to them. We encourage all our stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the new publications page and make use of its upgraded functionality on the link below:

View our newly created publications page here - [CLICK HERE](#)

As we lead up to the 20th Anniversary Celebration, we will continue to showcase and celebrate 20 years of excellent research at SACN.

The screenshot displays the SACN Publications page. At the top, there is a search bar and a 'Results: 145' indicator. Below the search bar, a 'Filters' section on the left allows users to refine results by year, programmatic area, publication type, themes, and city/regions. The main content area features two highlighted publications. The first is the '2021 State of South African Cities Report 2021', described as the 5th edition of the SACN's flagship output, presenting a five-year perspective on city performance. The second is the '2021 Rules of the Game' research report, which aims to provide insights into municipal performance management systems in South Africa.



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