

Press Release – 7 August 2014

## 1<sup>st</sup> SAEE Nelson Mandela Bay Energy Week a success - report

From the 28<sup>th</sup> of July to the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2014 the Eastern Cape branch of the Southern African Association for Energy Efficiency (SAEE) together with key stake holders in the region organized and hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Nelson Mandela Bay (NMB) Energy Week in Port Elizabeth.

Teaming up with strategic partners Eskom, Dept of Economic Development Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEDEAT), Regional Innovation Forum (RIF), NMB Business Chamber, Uitenhage Despatch Development Initiative (UDDI) and the Automotive Industry Development Centre (AIDC), the SAEE co-hosted five events namely the “Career in Energy’ school expo, Eastern Cape Provincial Green Skills Forum, Ladies in Energy networking evening, the 3<sup>rd</sup> SAEE Eastern Cape Conference and the Green Buildings Breakfast at the off-grid House Rhino. [www.ec.sae.org.za](http://www.ec.sae.org.za)

Based at the NMB Science & Technology centre the week got underway with two ‘Career in Energy’ days (Monday 28<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July) giving over 200 young people from previously disadvantaged communities and schools the opportunity to explore and engage with industry & FET colleges on a possible career in clean energy. Students from the invited 24 schools were taught to generate electricity and how a solar panel converts heat into energy while asking questions about energy efficiency and renewable energy looking at what opportunities for post school studies are available to them.

On Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> July the Eastern Cape Provincial Green Skills Research Seminar and Workshop was held at the Science Centre hosted and run by Rhodes University Environmental Learning Research Centre. The focus of this event was to establish a strong green skills research programme across research institutions and to provide a system of knowledge building to strengthen green skills for green jobs, a climate resilient green economy and ultimately for sustainable development in South Africa.

In the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> July the 1<sup>st</sup> Ladies in Energy cocktail networking event was held at the NMB Business Chamber sponsored by the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC). Speakers included Faith Mkhacwa (NCPC) and Dipolelo Elford from Windlab.

The flagship event of the week was the 3<sup>rd</sup> SAEE Eastern Cape Conference. This year’s event was opened by the Executive Mayor of NMB Ben Fihla and the opening address delivered by the MEC for Economic Development Sakhumzi Somyo who gave a strong call from provincial government to work together with the SAEE and industry to find solutions to our growing energy needs. In the opening session SAEE President Karel Steyn reminded delegates that energy efficiency is our most cost-effective approach to a sustainable and responsible business, and Barry Bredenkamp from SANEDI spoke on the 20 year journey of South Africa and the way forward.

Mid morning sessions included Lance Schultz from the AIDC addressing the Carbon move, Peter Neilson from the NMB Municipality showcasing local opportunities & challenges and Andrew Muir from the Wilderness Foundation with an environmental & sustainable perspective. The NCPC’s Faith Mkhacwa spoke on the Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) project before certificates were handed out to Energy Management Specialists who has successfully passed the IEE course.

Afternoon tracks, something new that was successfully included in this year's conference, focussed on five key areas: ISO 50 001 with the AIDC, Regional Renewable Energy updates with DEDEAT, Carbon Footprinting with Green Leaf Sustainability services, 12L Tax Allowance with SANEDI and Grid-Tie systems with the Rhino Energy group. All presentations are available at <http://ec.sae.org.za/downloads.aspx>

Complimenting the plenary and workshop sessions were 15 exhibition stands showcasing trends, services and the latest in energy efficiency products available locally in the Eastern Cape. Exhibitors included: Energy Training Foundation, DEDEAT, AIDC, UDDI, Centre for Energy research, NCPC, Private Sector Energy Efficiency Project, NMB Municipality, Quality Demand management, Microcare, Osram, Green Leaf Sustainability Services, NMB Business Chamber and Induction Wise. <http://ec.sae.org.za/conference.aspx>

Karel Steyn, SAEE President said: *"The involvement of high level government officials speaks volumes as to the profile of this conference and its contribution to the Region and the SAEE. I was impressed with the quality of the speakers as well as the number of people who attended. Congratulation to the Eastern Cape branch and thank-you for a hugely successful conference and week."*

The week came to an end with a Green Buildings breakfast and tour of the House Rhino in the Crossways Farm Village which showcased a house built off-grid of water, energy & able to re-use waste into gas. A fitting celebration to a successful week!

For more information on the SAEE please go to [www.sae.org.za](http://www.sae.org.za) or contact [easterncape@sae.org.za](mailto:easterncape@sae.org.za)