

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH FOR OVERSTRAND

On 21 May 2021, Overstrand Municipality signed a Use-of-System Agreement with a renewable-energy trading company, Enpower Trading, thereby taking the first steps to enter the renewable-energy market in a green and sustainable manner.

This ground-breaking historic agreement will enable the municipality to take advantage of the new energy regulations to transition from dependence on Eskom to renewable energy.

Overstrand Deputy Mayor, Elnora Gillion, emphasised that although the municipality will not be able to break away completely from Eskom, it is committed to finding alternative ways of generating and/or purchasing electricity to try and lessen the effect load shedding has on local businesses and residents.

Director Nikolai Germann explained that Enpower Trading (Pty) Ltd is a South African power trading company formed by SolarAfrica Energy, a rooftop solar finance and development company, and Enterprise Power, a pan-African power development and trading firm.

He stated that Enpower Trading's business model is to source renewable energy from independent power producers, to wheel it across municipal power grids, and to offer green energy to interested customers at a discount to prevailing power tariffs.

"Enpower Trading compensates municipalities for the use of their networks and municipal sub-charges as approved by the national regulator NERSA. Over time, Enpower Trading will develop local power-storage solutions to shield municipal constituents from the risk of load shedding," Germann said.

The agreement complies with national energy policy objectives and the regulation of the power sector.

Trading operations will start once the licence has been granted to Enpower Trading by NERSA. Note, though, that power trading operations in Overstrand remains subject to NERSA's approval of municipal tariffs.

Overstrand Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill, assured residents of the Overstrand that although the concepts and terms used are foreign, "we need to get our heads around it in order for us to be progressive. The municipality will follow proper processes with due diligence in its attempts to make 'green energy' happen as an alternative". He added that Overstrand is committed to assisting Enpower Trading with the application process for a licence from NERSA to help break Eskom's monopoly.

It is envisaged that towards the end of the year, Enpower Trading's bidding process to appoint independent power producers (IPPs) will be concluded and that these IPPs will commence with erecting plants to generate renewable energy to be fed into the municipal grid.



HISTORIC AGREEMENT SIGNED: Present at the signing of a Use-of-System Agreement were Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion, Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill, Enpower Trading Director Nikolai Germann, Overstrand's, Senior Manager for Electrical Services Koos du Plessis, Enpower Trading Director Charl Alheit and Overstrand's Director for Infrastructure and Planning Stephen Müller.



RECYCLING IN HERMANUS AND SURROUNDS BOUND TO RECOMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER



Materials-recovery and public drop-off facility currently under construction in Hermanus. The inset shows the location of the steel construction that caused the delay.

Construction of the new materials-recovery and public drop-off facility in Hermanus suffered several setbacks.

Sometime in March this year, strong winds caused severe damage to three of the steel frames erected as a structure that would house part of this facility.

On inspection, structural engineers found that the type of steel used for these frames were substandard and ordered the contractor to source a different type of steel. Given the current shortage of steel experienced in the country, this caused a delay of approximately three months in the construction process.

Nevertheless, construction is back on track and the facility ought to be ready for handover to a duly appointed operator sometime in August. With regards to the latter, the invitation to bid for the operation of this facility closed some time ago and all tenders received are currently being evaluated.

If everything goes according to plan, materials recovery in and around Hermanus will recommence in September.

Residents will be informed by way of a public notice of the date on which the two-bag collection system will kick in yet again.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO OVERSTRAND'S YOUTH: JOIN THE DIALOGUE AND TELL US WHAT YOU NEED

Overstrand Municipality acknowledges that we all too often discount the opinions of young people regarding the way we go about doing what we do.

Truth of the matter, though, is that we do not hear your opinions simply because you are highly adverse to anything that smells of "officialdom".

And we can't blame you: Who wants to rock up for a ward committee meeting or go to the trouble of **writing** a letter to your Councillor [with a capital C]?

The downside is that unless you tell us what you need, we won't know how to respond.

The upside is, we finally caught up with how you guys like to voice your opinions: Preferably in a safe space where the focus is exclusively on youth affairs.

For that reason, we established a special Youth Desk where we can engage with you to talk about those issues that affect you so that we can work together on unlocking opportunities that will improve your quality of life.

But to ensure that the Youth Desk provides a service that is truly relevant to people in the age group 16 to 35 years, we need your assistance.

For starters, please complete the Youth Desk Form and return it to us as soon as possible. You will find this form at any of the following places:

- On our website: www.overstrand.gov.za
Go to DOCUMENTS, select FORMS and find "Updated youth desk forms".
Download and complete the document.
- Mail any of the following people and request a form:
youthdesk@overstrand.gov.za, LEDtemp5@overstrand.gov.za,
or rsalies@overstrand.gov.za
- Visit your nearest LED office in Gansbaai, Stanford, Kleinmond, Hawston or Hermanus, or the Thusong Centre in Hawston and ask for a form.

On this form, you can tell us more about the needs of the youth in your area (including the need for training and skills development) and share your ideas about how we can tackle unemployment in the Overstrand.

If you would like to receive communication from the Youth Desk about specific programmes or initiatives planned for your area, please provide us with a cell phone number or email address. Communication will happen via WhatsApp or email, depending on your preference.

SPREAD THE WORD: TAG AND SHARE THIS!

PARKING IN HERMANUS CBD

Overstrand Municipality received an enquiry from Ward 3 regarding parking control in Hermanus CBD.



The allegation was made that currently, there is no parking available in the CBD after 09:00. It was also stated that this is very frustrating for potential customers, who are sorely needed to stimulate commerce in the CBD.

According to Ward 3 Councillor, Ald. Kari Brice, it worked well in the past when the parking tariff was enforced as it encouraged people to park, do business and move on, thereby opening parking spaces for the next customer. This practice was temporarily

suspended early in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to Overstrand Municipal Manager, Dean O' Neill, the municipality cannot implement the parking service using parking attendants until some normalcy with regards to the pandemic has been restored.

The challenge is that parking attendants work with cash, which needs to be counted and paid in at certain intervals. This, together with the number of attendants who come to the offices, is not conducive to the safety protocols that need to be observed. Given that the country is experiencing a third wave of infections and now finds itself in lockdown level 4, this situation is bound to remain unchanged for the foreseeable future.

Shopping centres can, however, levy parking fees since their parking areas operate independently from municipal parking areas.

You are still welcome to tip local car guards (dressed in green, orange, yellow or pink fluorescent safety vests) for the time spent to watch your car.

HAWSTON'S DRAIN NET STOLEN

Recently, the storm-water catchment net that was installed in Hawston to stop waste from polluting Paddavlei was stolen.

Penelope Aplon from Overstrand Municipality's Environmental Management Services said they are completely gutted and distraught by this thievery.

"We don't know why somebody would steal this net. Maybe it will be used for poaching activities or to catch fish illegally. Perhaps the steel fitting was sold as scrap metal," she said.

Paddavlei is a fragile wetland that is being impacted by pollution and reed overgrowth. Minimising waste reaching this system, as well as planned reed removal, will restore much needed balance in this ecosystem.

Overstrand Municipality's Environmental Management Services Department, in partnership with Dyer Island Conservation Trust, fitted the first storm-water filter sock in Hawston at the beginning of June to trap litter and debris that wash into the system after a rain storm. The sock is made of net and placed over the storm-water pipeline's outlet to capture any litter before it ends up in the ocean.

If you witnessed this theft, please report it to the department on 028 316 3724. Ask to speak to Environmental Manager, Penelope Aplon, and provide as much information as you can.

To curb crime of an environmental kind, residents are requested to report any incidents of illegal netting for fish to Overstrand Law Enforcement (028 313 8996) or the 24-hour control room (028 313 8111).

