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Department:
Electricity and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Intelligence

Report-back on workshop:

Stakeholder and public engagement on the National Energy Efficiency Strategy, NEES 2026-2035.

Date: 27 October 2026 **Time:** 14h00 to 16h30 SAST **Platform:** Zoom **Cost:** Free-of-charge

Hosted by: [Department of Energy & Electricity](#) and [The World Bank Group](#)

In association with: [EE Business Intelligence](#)

Presenters:

- *Opening address:* Xolile Mabusela, Director: Energy Efficiency & Environment, Dept of Electricity & Energy.
- *Global perspective:* Joonkyong Seong, Senior Energy Adviser, The World Bank.
- *Presenter 1:* Dr Theo Covary, NEES coordinator.
- *Presenter 2:* Margaret McKenzie, NEES author.
- *Presenter 3:* Astghine Pasoyan, NEES author.
- *Wrap-up:* Mthunzi Mangqalaza, Energy Efficiency Coordinator, Dept of Electricity & Energy

Draft NEES 2026-2036 strategy document and comment template:

- [Download the Draft NEES 2026-2036 strategy document.](#)
- [Download the NEES 2026-2035 comment template.](#)

Audio/video recording of the workshop:

- [View the audio/video recording of the complete webinar on YouTube here.](#)
- [View the archive of all EE Business Intelligence webinars on YouTube here.](#)

Presentation at the workshop:

- [Download presentation by Dr Theo Covary, Margaret McKenzie and Astghine Pasoyan.](#)

Results of polls conducted at the workshop:

- [Download the results of the polls conducted at the workshop.](#)

Biographies of presenters at the workshop:

- [Download the biographies of the presenters.](#)

Background and synopsis

South Africa's economy remains highly energy- and carbon-intensive, making energy efficiency one of the country's most immediate and cost-effective opportunities to strengthen energy security, reduce costs and support economic growth.

Improved energy efficiency can lower electricity demand, ease pressure on the national power system, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and air pollution, enhance industrial competitiveness and unlock investment, innovation and sustainable employment. It is therefore a critical pillar of South Africa's energy transition and its broader economic development agenda.

The first National Energy Efficiency Strategy, covering the period 2005-2015, established an economy-wide target to reduce energy intensity by 12%. Now entering its third iteration, the National Energy Efficiency Strategy 2026-2035 sets out the next phase of South Africa's national commitment to using energy more productively, affordably and sustainably.

This stakeholder and public engagement workshop formed part of the formal consultation process on the Cabinet-endorsed draft NEES 2026-2035. It provided government, business, industry, financiers, energy specialists, researchers and civil society with an important opportunity to understand the proposed strategy, engage directly with its authors and contribute to its final direction.

This workshop initiated the public consultation process, and its purposes was to familiarise participants with the process and the high-level content of the NEES. The audience was be invited to raise questions, identify practical implementation challenges and offer recommendations that can help ensure the final strategy is ambitious, credible and capable of delivering measurable economic, social and environmental benefits. The workshop called for comments and inputs to be submitted through a formal process on the comments template provided.

The workshop provided an important opportunity for stakeholders to help shape South Africa's energy-efficiency priorities for the decade ahead.

Proceedings

After an opening address by Xolile Mabusela, Director: Energy Efficiency & Environment at the DEE, followed by a global perspective on the subject of Energy Efficiency by Joonkyong Seong, Senior Energy Adviser at The World Bank, the Coordinator and Principal Authors of the Draft NEES 2026-2035 strategy document made a joint presentation on the document. During the presentation, three live polls were conducted to get input and feedback from the audience on various issues. After this, there was a 30-minutes Q & A session for the presenters to answer questions from the audience. Finally, Mthunzi Mangqalaza, Energy Efficiency Coordinator at the DEE wrapped-up with some concluding remarks and thanks.

Attendance

Prior to the webinar at 14h00 on Tuesday 27 October 2026, there were 957 online registrations for the webinar, with 474 unique attendees on the day with a maximum of 404 concurrent attendees. All 957 persons who registered to attend the webinar will receive this report-back, providing links to view the video recording on demand, and to download the NEES 2026-2035 strategy document, comment template, presentation, results of the polls, and presenter biographies.

Further information

For further information from the presenters, contact:

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