



South Africa's energy sector is facing numerous challenges, all contributing to our current energy crisis and with a direct bearing on our country's future. We must decisively deal with energy security and load shedding, whilst urgently securing broad sector reforms and accelerating large-scale investment. The Energy Council aims to enable a unified strategy and vision for a South African energy transition pathway that will support clean industrialisation and global competitiveness, address our economic and social deficits and importantly contribute to a sustainable environment.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Quarter 1 2024 is done! I ask myself if we are keeping to our commitment for a year of action and delivery? Based on the activity described below, I believe we're on track.

Bearing in mind that the Energy Transition is a long journey and we are already lagging behind our global peers, it is critical that we move out of crisis mode and into consistent growth. Hopefully 2024 will be a pivotal year in bringing stability to our energy transition journey.



I am optimistic that despite some setbacks, the ERA amendment bill is still on track for assent under the current parliament. This will be a significant reform milestone and a boost to international and investor confidence in South Africa's energy sector. In the meantime, the business-government partnership has continued to strengthen as we engage robustly on the delivery of the Energy Action Plan objectives. As a reminder, these objectives are to 1) End load shedding as quickly as possible, 2) Build significant new generation and 3) Reform the energy sector for future sustainability. With nearly 3500 hrs of business support at power stations since mid 2023, I believe we are also making a positive contribution to the Eskom power station turnaround plan. While the overall system still remains vulnerable, we are seeing a stabilisation in EAF which very importantly, when combined with the rapid private sector investment in renewables, is delivering a significant reduction in load shedding in 2024.

Recently, a Critical Path to end load shedding was jointly agreed between Business and Government. The Critical Path maps the impact of all sources of generation, including coal, wind and solar, which is how we must plan our future energy transition. Internally, we have continued to develop our Energy Transition Roadmap project, which you can read about in this newsletter. This work has included energy strategy, modelling and implementation planning, and will set the Energy Council work plan going forward as we engage with key stakeholders.

This month we proudly announced our membership of the World Energy Council and have been preparing to launch the South Africa Committee of the WEC. There is still so much to tackle and many other areas of ongoing engagement. I am looking forward to an exciting, action-packed second quarter as we continue to focus on delivery and remain hopeful for a well-contested but stable outcome for the national elections.

ENERGY COUNCIL IN THE NEWS



JAMES MACKAY: Amid all the energy acronyms, EAP is paramount

South Africa urgently needs to shift to a more integrated view of the energy sector and related reforms as we start to move out of load shedding.

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Real progress being made against load shedding in recent months.

The number of hours of load shedding in South Africa has been cut by 67% over the past three-and-a-half months. Energy Council of South Africa CEO James Mackay highlighted.

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UK-SA partnership to harness smart technology for energy challenges

While South Africa continues to work on short-term problem-solving load shedding, its wider ambition must be geared toward future energy demand security driven by smart technology.

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ENERGY COUNCIL ON THE GROUND



The **Energy Council of South Africa** and key members of our Standing Committees visited the **Eskom National Control Centre** in Germiston on 26 March. We are very grateful to the extremely knowledgeable National Control Manager, Gav Hurford for the engaging debate and insights on our energy system. Despite the many challenges Eskom faces, the NCC remains a centre of excellence with highly competent staff like Gav. We followed the tour with a delicious dinner at the very special **Sanctuary Mandela**, the perfect place to reflect on challenges and creating unity as we tackle our energy transition. Thank you to **Christo Fourie, Bernardo Neri, Werner Venter, Stan Pillay** and **Keith Webb** for joining us and sharing your thoughts and ideas.



- 4 – 5 April 2024: 3rd Electricity Wheeling Conference, CTICC, Cape Town
- 9 April 2024: Energy Council Leadership Forum, Johannesburg
- 22 – 25 April 2024: 26th World Energy Conference, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

AN INTEGRATED ENERGY FRAMEWORK TO DRIVE THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Energy Council of South Africa was established in 2022 as a collaboration between public and private sector businesses. Our key strategic goal is to enable the implementation of a stakeholder-aligned national Energy Transition plan to support a vibrant energy sector and South African economy.

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The Energy Council of South Africa Team would like to wish you and your families a Happy Easter and a safe long weekend.

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