



The Energy Council of South Africa is dedicated to fostering collaboration, innovation, and action in the energy sector. Through delivery partnerships, advocacy, and thought leadership, the Council is committed to advancing South Africa's energy transition and ensuring a secure, sustainable energy future for all.



We're making progress. Together with our members, partners and industry stakeholders, we are covering ground on tackling the complexities and challenges in the Road to SAWEM 2026.

The Energy Council hosted the South African Wholesale Electricity Market (SAWEM) 2026 - Risks and Readiness event, in collaboration with Nedbank CIB, Bowmans, and Cresco, to underscore the urgency of SAWEM as a national imperative.



Deputy Minister Hon. Samantha Graham-Mare opened the event outlining SAWEM as the cornerstone of South Africa's energy reform, expressing the urgency and importance of moving from centralised planning to a liberalised market that promotes efficiency, correct price discovery and investor confidence. The National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA), which has applied for a Market Operator licence, was represented by Keith Bowen who presented the preparation work that is underway to launch in a phased approach from April 1, 2026. A huge thank you to our expert panel who contributed to the discussion that followed with a Q&A session from a highly engaged audience. The event highlighted the need for more focus and dialogue on industry readiness as well as detailed launch planning under the NTCSA and Government, with both elements being key focus areas of the Energy Council.

Many people ask me why SAWEM is so important to South Africa's energy reform strategy and why it is important to launch in 2026. SAWEM plays a central role in accelerating the energy transition and has significant technical and system efficiency benefits. A well-functioning wholesale electricity market will foster competitive pricing by introducing more market players and unlocking investment, while driving innovation and modernisation in the power sector. By reducing pressure on the national fiscus and strengthening energy security, SAWEM will form the backbone of a future-fit energy system.

To support this, the Energy Council has launched the Road to **SAWEM Launch Portal** for energy stakeholders to:

- access concept notes, guidance and updates
- track SAWEM 2026 implementation progress and raise concerns
- be connected to what's happening

Be a part of the market we're building by taking 5 mins to complete this poll.

[SAWEM Runway to Launch Poll](#)



Standard Bank and NOA partner to unlock capital for SA's energy transition

Standard Bank and NOA have reached financial close on the 349 MW Khauta South Solar PV project — a flagship development that marks a major step forward for South Africa's energy transition. The project introduces an innovative financial structure designed to unlock new streams of capital for large-scale renewable energy investment.

[Read more](#)



Scatec CEO discusses the massive potential of green hydrogen for energy production at the 2026 Africa Energy Forum

eNCA caught up with Alberto Gambacorta, Executive Vice President and GM of Sub-Saharan Africa at Scatec, to uncover Africa's potential to become a green hydrogen powerhouse due to our vast wind and solar resources. How can South Africa capitalise on this position?

[Read more](#)



The National Transmission Company of South Africa aims to launch the electricity market platform on April 1 2026

In a presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy, the NTCSA indicated that it is aiming to have the initial phase of the South African Wholesale Electricity Market, also referred to as the SAWEM, operating by April 1 next year, should it have received regulatory approval to do so.

[Read more](#)



- 2 July:** World Energy Café Africa: Financing the Energy Transition in Africa
- 4 July:** Energy Council of South Africa Annual General Meeting
- 22 July:** Energy Council Leadership Forum
- 23 July:** Coal and Energy Transition Day Event (*10% member discount code available upon request*)



WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL

SOUTH AFRICA

World Energy Café Africa

FROM POTENTIAL TO POWER: FINANCING ADDITIONS AND TRANSITIONS IN AFRICA

The Energy Council of South Africa hosted the inaugural World Energy Café Africa under the theme: Financing the Energy Transition in Africa

The World Energy Café (We Café) offers a unique space for discussions where the collective actions of all system actors, enriched by shared global experiences, drive a safer and more sustainable energy future. At the core of this conversation is the World Energy Trilemma, which guides us in balancing energy security, equity, and sustainability, to mitigate climate impacts while fortifying our systems.

[Key insights](#)

REGISTRATION FOR BUSINESS PARTICIPATION UNDER NECOM 2.0

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